


European Commission

## The payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment - Greening

**MS notifications by  
01 August and 01 October 2014  
– state of play**

*DG Agriculture and Rural Development  
European Commission*

Agriculture and Rural Development



### DISCLAIMER

***This working document has been prepared by DG AGRI staff in order to facilitate the discussion in the Expert group for direct payments. It has the purpose to inform the Expert group of the results of the notifications sent by 1 August and 1 October 2014.***

***The assessment of the notified decisions and provided information is still ongoing. The information reported at this stage does not prejudice any further clarifications requests from the Commission to MS.***

***This document cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.***

2



### State of play

#### **All MS submitted notification forms for 1 August and 1 October (5 forms) for the following information:**

- Equivalent practices to greening
- Permanent grassland ratio and obligation level
- Ecological focus areas (EFA): EFA type activation - factors
- EFA collective and regional approach
- EFA forest exemption

#### **On-going assessment :**

- Equivalence: first round of assessment (3 months) finished
- Other forms: under assessment

#### **New forms – deadline 15 December 2014:**

- 15. Environmentally sensitive permanent grassland:
  - Detailed designation of further grassland outside Natura 2000: criteria Art. 41 Reg. 639/2014, methodology, cartography etc.
  - National area of environmental sensitive grassland IN and OUT Natura 2000

3



### 09. Equivalent practices – State of play

- 8 MS activated equivalence
  - 2 MS Certification schemes
  - 6 MS RDP commitments
- First stage of the assessment (3 months):
  - Request for supplementary information from the Commission
  - Deadlines between 18 October and 1 November
- Assessment conducted in cooperation with RD units and other horizontal units (legal, controls, environment)
- Letters sent to all 8 MS which activated equivalence
  - 1 MS postponed activation of equivalence
  - To 7 MS request for supplementary information
- November: waiting for replies to these requests

4



## 10. Permanent grassland obligation-ratio level

### Main figures

- Choice on obligation-ratio geographic level
  - 23 MS ratio at **national** level
  - 4 MS ratio at **regional** level (administrative regions)
  - **Sub-regional** level not chosen
  - 1 MS without permanent grassland
- Choice on extra obligation at holding level
  - 2 MS chose to apply it

5



## 12. Regional – Collective EFA

### Regional implementation

- Not chosen by any MS

### Collective implementation

- Chosen by 2 MS with same detailed rules
- Proximity criteria → radius of 15 Km
- No other specific obligation for farmers

6

### 13. EFA Forest exemption

- Chosen by 4 MS
- Extended ANC areas in all 4 MS
- Different approaches for the designation of areas
  - Criteria for homogenous regions
    - length of growing period
    - thermal-time sum
    - altitude
    - soil type
  - Geographic scale
    - regions (NUTS 3)
    - municipalities (LAU 2)
    - parishes (lower than LAU 2)

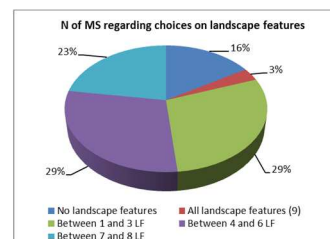
7

### 11. Ecological Focus Areas

#### Main figures on EFA

- Number of activated EFA type
  - Between **2 and 4** EFA: 6 MS
  - Between **5 and 9** EFA: 12 MS
  - **Over 10** EFA: 14 MS
- Kind of EFA type
  - Nitrogen fixing crops: all MS except one
  - Land Lying Fallow: all MS except two
  - Short rotation coppice: 22 MS
  - Catch crops: 21 MS
  - Buffer strips: 20 MS
  - Trees in groups: 18 MS
  - Field margins: 17 MS

MS: counting always referred to MS + regions for BE and UK



8

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas

### Main figures on factors

- Conversion factor
  - Applied for (almost) all chosen EFA: 12 MS
  - Some MS applied the conversion factor only on some EFA
  - Not applied : 4 MS
- Weighting factor
  - Applied for (almost) all chosen EFA: great majority of MS
  - Few exceptions (e.g. EE)

### Scheduling of EFA

- Chosen by 4 MS with activation in 2016
- Only for some elements (max 4 EFA/MS)

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Land Laying Fallow (LLF)

- Activated by 30 MS (all except 2)
- 7 MS indicated national requirements
  - In principle setting national requirements is not possible
  - Case by case analysis to be done during assessment
- 5 MS indicated a minimum period for LLF, in 3 cases longer than 6 months

### Terraces

- Activated by 8 MS
- Details on measures and implementation under GAEC

*Note: MS are counted as 32 in total, always referring to MS + regions for BE and UK*

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Landscape features (LF)

- 27 MS (84%) activated at least 1 landscape feature
- Article 45 requirements vs Cross-compliance
  - 9 only Art. 45
  - 8 only cross-compliance
  - 10 both Art. 45 and cross-compliance
    - In 7 cases only 1 EFA is Art. 45 or cross-compliance
    - More complex situations in 3 MS: some EFA Art. 45, some EFA cross-compliance with different choices on GAEC and SMR
- LF activated in cross-compliance
  - 17 of 18 MS activated GAEC
  - 5 of 18 MS activated SMR

### Different dimension limits

- Limits vary among MS and EFA (higher or lower)
- Sometimes Art. 45 limits are confirmed also in cross-compliance LF

11

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Other landscape features

- Activated by 10 MS
- Always under GAEC 7 (in 2 cases also SMR)
- Type of other LF:
  - Archaeological sites, ancient monuments: mostly in Northern – Central countries
  - Trees – alleys and groups
  - LF linked to rice cultivation
  - Garrigue
  - Wetlands

12

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Buffer strips

- Activated by 20 MS
- Dimensions: different approaches
- Strip of riparian vegetation: chosen by almost all MS
- Grazing or cutting on buffer strip: chosen by all MS
- Other buffer strips activated by 10 MS

13

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Short rotation coppice

- Activated by 22 MS
- Number of species per MS: between 2 and 11
- Most commonly chosen species
  - Willow (*Salix*): 22 MS
  - Poplar (*Populus*): 18 MS
  - Alder (*Alnus*): 16 MS
  - Birch (*Betula*) and Ash (*Fraxinus*): 11 MS
  - Some MS chose non-indigenous species
- Fertilisers – Plant protection products criteria
  - Sometimes not specified
  - Different choices, sometimes detailed requirements

14

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Catch crops

- Activated by 21 MS with very different approaches
- List of crops – mixtures:
  - 5 MS didn't specify any crop or undersowing
  - 2 MS mentioned national legislation for crop choices
  - List of crops: usually quite long list, sometimes extended (up to 84 crops)
  - Crops divided in categories (cereals – leguminous) or botanical families
  - Requirements for mixing crops:
    - At least two species used by many MS
    - Sometimes complex criteria (percentages, different categories, main crops etc.) for some MS
- Undersowing grass in the main crop chosen by 6 MS

15

## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Catch crops

- Period of the sowing:
  - Usually between July and September
  - Some MS notified a longer period from March-April
- Production methods
  - Requirements for sowing – mixing crops
  - Presence on the field: 9 MS specified an end date or a number of weeks of permanence
  - Conditions/restrictions relating to the use of fertilisers and plant protection products chosen by 4 MS

16



## 11. Ecological Focus Areas detailed information

### Nitrogen fixing crops

- Activated by 31 MS
- Number of crops per MS: between 4 and 19
- Crops:
  - Faba bean (*Vicia faba*): all MS
  - Pea (*Pisum spp*): 30 MS
  - Alfalfa (*Medicago*): 28 MS
  - Lupin (*Lupinus*): 27 MS
  - Clover (*Trifolium*): 26 MS
- Some MS notified crop mixtures
- Criteria for crop choices: quite simple and generic
- Geographic criteria: usually not specified or whole country
- Production methods: specified in 13 MS, various criteria, sometimes referring to nitrate-CC legislation