



Permanent pasture protection in the framework of cross-compliance

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What is Permanent Pasture in CC

Plants: grasses or other herbaceous forage, plants traditionally found in natural pasture or included in mixture of seeds for pasture or meadows

Type of vegetation: natural (self-seeding) or cultivation (sown)

Type of use : grazing or mowing

A temporal factor: 5 year exclusion from crop rotation



A variety of PP across Europe ... and many roles

Recital of Regulation EC 1782/2003

*Since permanent pasture has a **positive environmental effect**, it is appropriate to adopt measures to encourage the maintenance of existing permanent pasture **to avoid a massive conversion into arable land***

Main environmental effects:

- Soil protection
- Biodiversity (Habitat for plants and animals),
- Landscape conservation
- Carbon sequestration

What concerns for PP in CC?

Standard: Protection of permanent pasture
Maintenance of the PP ratio

Standard: Minimum livestock stocking rates
or/and appropriate regimes

Standard: Avoiding the encroachment of
unwanted vegetation on agricultural land

Standard: Minimum land management
reflecting site-specific conditions

Standard: Appropriate machinery use

SMR 1 and 5 Natura 2000



CC as a full system of protecting PP for their role

Protect and improve the quality of PP land: GAEC standards, SMR habitat



Maintaining the pool (quantity) of PP land: PP ratio



Standard: Protection of permanent pasture

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Protection of permanent pasture					Protection of permanent pasture				
	Periods for grazing / cutting	Removal of unwanted bushes/wooden plants	Ban of burning	Avoid ploughing and other operations		Periods for grazing / cutting	Removal of unwanted bushes/wooden plants	Ban of burning	Avoid ploughing and other operations
AT				X	LT	X	X	X	
BE_FL		X			LU			X	
BE_WA	X				LV	X			
BG		X			MT				
CY					NL				
CZ			X		PL	X			
DE	X				PT		X		
DK					RO			X	
EE	X				SE				
ES			X		SI				
FI		X			SK	X			
FR					UK_EN				
EL		X			UK_NI				X
HU					UK_SC				X
IE					UK_WA	X			
IT			X	X					

Decisions linked to roles and uses

Period for grazing/mowing

To avoid abandonment and
spreading of invasive vegetation

To manage PP in a environmentally
friendly way or/and correctly from an
agronomic point of view

Frequency: e.g. once every year,
once every two years -> *adjusted* ->

Period: e.g. before a certain date



altitude,
protected pastures,
PP with natural value

Exceptions: i.e. not applicable the first year

Period for grazing/mowing

Examples of Additional rules

- the mowed grass must be chopped or gathered
- residue resulting from the clearance operations must be transferred (to reduce the fire risk)

Controls

- Evidence of grazing/mowing
- Effect on following year production to judge if a management measure is adequate



Removal of unwanted bushes/ wooden plants

Related to the standard: avoid
the encroachment of unwanted
vegetation on agricultural land



Specific requirements:

- definition of species

Exceptions: e.g. not applicable if stocking density \Rightarrow 0,5 LU/ha

Avoid ploughing and other workings

It may be related to the maintenance of PP pool: no ploughing up -> no conversion to arable

Restrictions aiming at preserving certain high nature-value sites which would be destroyed by ploughing

No tillage operations except the periodic renewal of grazing vegetation and the draining network maintenance

Only with prior approval: e.g. Environmental impact assessment (farmers must not undertake new drainage works, ploughing, clearing, levelling, reseeding or cultivations on uncultivated land or semi-natural habitats without prior approval)



Ban of burning



Standard: Minimum livestock stocking rates or/and appropriate regimes

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It responds to the necessity to avoid undergrazing and overgrazing

“Undergrazing”- Provision for land where fear that abandonment could lead to spread of invasive vegetation which would be difficult to remove/bring land back into production

Fixing minimum stocking density and mowing are often seen as alternatives

No specific stocking rates, but the parcel (of natural pasture) must be visibly affected by grazing animals

Preserving the agricultural potential: cutting or grazing to ensure that land is capable of returning to agricultural production by the start of the next growing season or 15th May at the latest



Standard: Minimum livestock stocking rates or/and appropriate regimes

“Overgrazing”- grazing land with so many livestock that the growth, quality or diversity of natural or semi-natural vegetation is adversely affected



Supplementary feeding practices: feeding away from watercourses on all land types

To avoid trampling or poaching of land by livestock, or ruts caused by vehicles used to transport feed (soil erosion, soil compaction)

Legal background

Ratio shall not decrease more than 10%

Obligation shall apply at national or regional level

Authorisation for conversion

If the ratio is decreasing, MS shall oblige farmers not to convert land under PP without prior authorization

General authorisation up to 5% decrease

The authorisation may contain the obligation to establish an area of land as PP -> this area shall be considered as PP from the first year and it shall be used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage for the five consecutive years -> these PP shall be localised and followed up



Legal background

Re-conversion into PP

If the 10% obligation cannot be ensured, MS shall oblige farmers to re-convert into PP the land which was converted from land under PP to other uses (only for land converted since 24-month period preceding the last date for aid application submission)

Reconverted land will be considered as PP since the first day of the re-conversion and it shall be used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage for the five consecutive years -> these PP shall be localised and followed up



MS may have defined restrictions
(e.g. ploughing once in 5 years as a maximum)

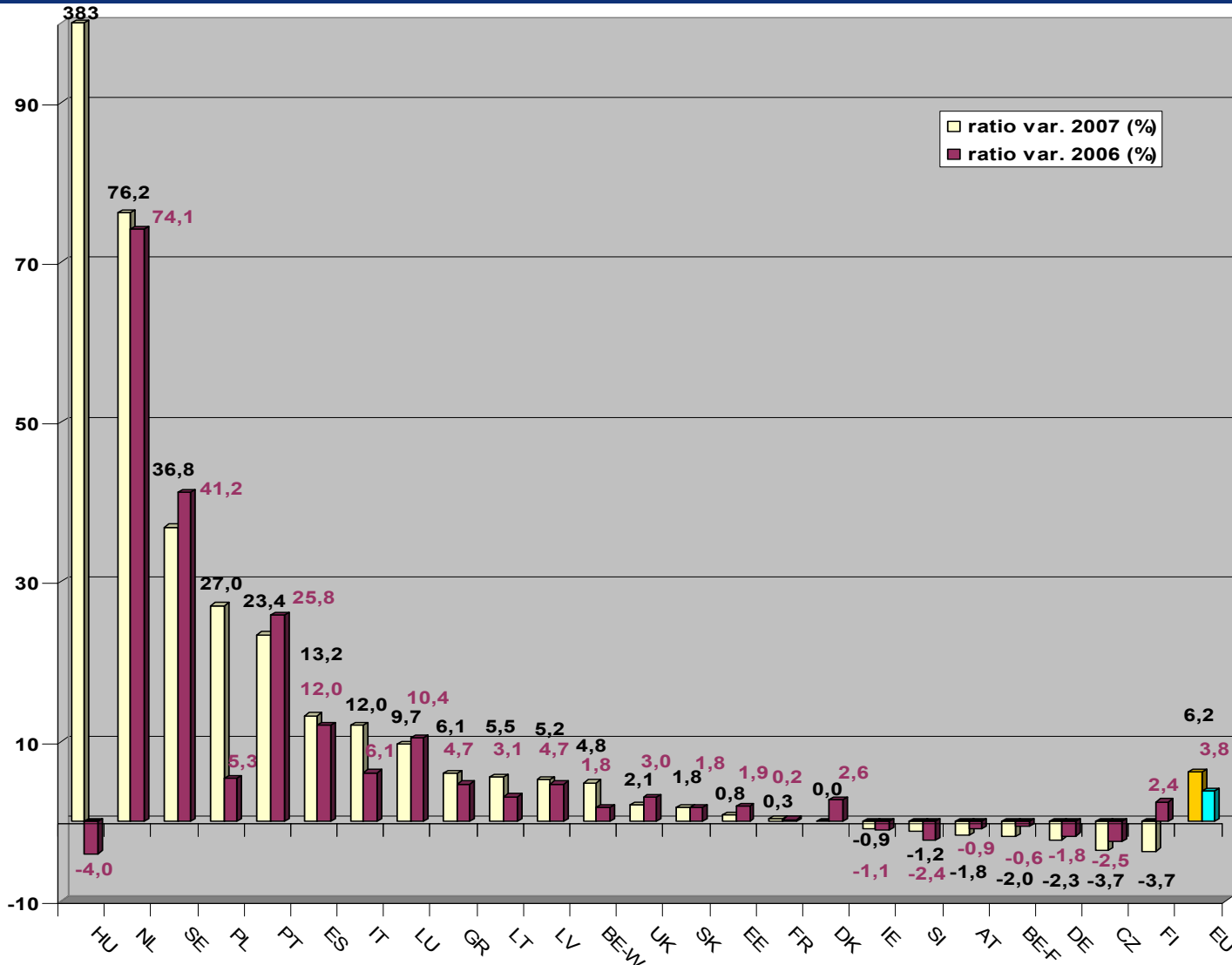
Ploughing and reseeding may be not acceptable for PP with a high natural value (biodiversity) -> protection may be ensured through GAEC and/or SMR



Maintenance of the permanent pasture ratio

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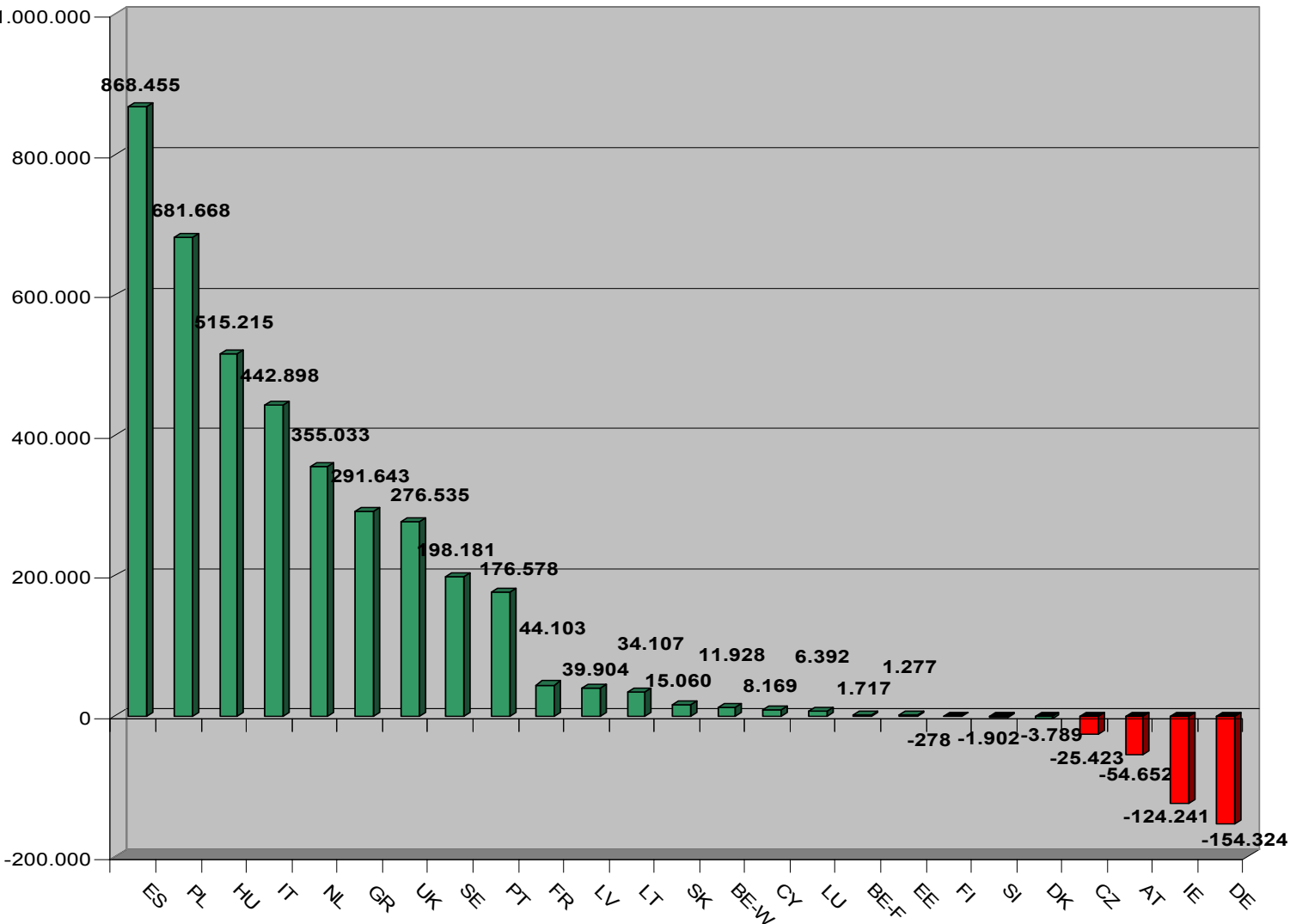


**PP variation
in 2006 and
2007 with
reference to
the PP
reference
ratio**

Maintenance of the permanent pasture ratio

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**Permanent
pasture area
variation:
reference
ratio-2007
(ha)**

EU (2005-2007)

Permanent pasture declared:	+ 3.604.255 ha (+ 8%)
UAA declared:	+ 2.381.566 ha (+ 1,6%)

Effects due to new entrants (with PP)?

Errors found in declaration?

New areas declared as PP: conversion of land into grassland?

- *If it is considered as PP from the first year, it shall be maintained for five years -> monitoring system in place*

Reference PP area: was the formula correctly applied?

Approaching the - 5% limit in some MS



A system of authorisation shall be established

PP ratio is not a main concern in many MS as a decline is not an immediate threat, ratio currently seems to maintain the quota

A synergy between ratio and GAEC standards requirements is needed in order to take into account site-specific environmental considerations (such as botanical value)

Global objective of sustainable agriculture depends on which permanent pasture is maintained, rather than just whether the overall area of permanent pasture is maintained at national level (quantitative and quality rules are in place)

Opportunity of monitoring at specific geographical level

Sometimes high value PP are protected with national rules (outside CC)

Some control issues for PP ratio

Establish a system for authorisation in case the ratio is approaching -5%

Localise and followed-up new land declared as PP (e.g. re-conversion)

When necessary, be ready to have a system able to trace land to be reconverted

The reference ratio (old MS)

$$\frac{PP\ 2003 + PP\ new2005 - PP2005el - AFF\ 2005}{UAA\ tot\ 2005}$$

PP 2003 = Permanent pasture area of 2003

PP new 2005 = new permanent pasture in 2005, not declared as PP in 2003

PP 2005el = permanent pasture in 2005 and eligible for arable crops area payment in 2003

AFF 2005 = Permanent pasture in 2003 afforested since 2003

UAA tot 2005 = Utilised Agricultural Area declared in 2005

The annual ratio

$$\frac{PP\ year}{UAA\ year}$$

PP year = Permanent pasture area of the current year

UAA year = Utilised Agricultural Area declared in the current year

The reference ratio (new MS not applying single area payment scheme)

$$\frac{PP\ 2004 + PP\ new2005 - PP2005el - AFF\ 2005}{UAA\ tot\ 2005}$$

PP 2003 = Permanent pasture area of 2004

PP new 2005 = new permanent pasture in 2005, not declared as PP in 2004

PP 2005el = permanent pasture in 2005 and eligible for arable crops area payment in 2004

AFF 2005 = Permanent pasture in 2004 afforested since 2004

UAA tot 2005 = Utilised Agricultural Area declared in 2005

The reference ratio (new MS applying single area payment scheme)

$$\frac{PP\ 2005}{UAA\ tot\ 2005}$$

PP 2003 = Permanent pasture area declared in 2005

UAA tot 2005 = Utilised Agricultural Area declared in 2005

Maintenance of the permanent pasture ratio

Some definitions in MS

Parcels declared as pasture for 4 years between 2000 and 2003 and forage area in 1999 (no correction for pasture in 2005 as in the formula)

Land that was declared as forage/grass on a 2003 Area Aid application form and was also declared as forage/grass in the 5 consecutive years up to and including 2003

Pasture renewed once every 5 years, ploughed and re-sown, sometimes with a temporary crop that shall be harvested by mid-July (cover crop should not compete with the undersown grass)

*How is it controlled? Two visits?
Monitoring during the following 5 years?*

