



Commission approach to permanent pasture rules and their implementation

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Table of content

1. Proposal 2011
2. Reactions (Council & MEPs)
3. Commission services, concept paper and further reflections
4. Focal points & on-going discussion

Proposal 2011 I

Greening policy

- Aim: Integrating ecological targets in direct payments
- Three measures
 - Crop diversification (Art. 30)
 - Permanent grassland (Art. 31)
 - Ecological focus area (Art. 32)
- 30% of national ceiling as greening payment



Proposal 2011 II

Definitions (Article 4, h & i)

***"Permanent grassland"** means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or longer; it may include other species suitable for grazing provided that the grasses and other herbaceous forage remain predominant;*

***"grasses or other herbaceous forage"** means all herbaceous plants traditionally found in natural pastures or normally included in mixtures of seeds for pastures or meadows in the Member State (whether or not used for grazing animals);*

DEFINITIONS ARE DECISIVE FOR MEASURES (EXTENT OF PROTECTION, IMPACT ON EACH SINGLE FARMER)

Proposal 2011 III

Permanent grassland maintenance as part of greening (Article 31)

1. Areas declared as permanent grassland in the reference year 2014 shall be maintained
2. Maximum of 5% for conversion (except force majeure)
3. Delegated acts by the Commission to lay down rules regarding
 - increase of reference area
 - renewal
 - reconversion
 - transfer rules

Reactions I - Council

Working document of several MS under the leadership of Luxembourg

- Enlarging the possibilities to be "green by definition"
- Menu approach → more measures to choose from, no one size fits all approach
- Less farmers would have to maintain PG

Reactions II – Amendments by MEPs

Amendments regarding greening in general

- No greening at all
- Not mandatory → MS should decide
- More measures to choose from → menu approach
- Change thresholds (holding size) for participation obligation
- AECMs instead of greening → equivalency

Amendments regarding the definition

- Exemptions for Natura 2000 (existing protection)
- Shorter or longer time period (3-7 years) out of crop rotation
- Include pastures and less productive areas (traditional pastures)
- Grass areas under AECMs should not form part of the definition
- Landscape features allowed → should be regarded as part of PG

Reactions III – Amendments by MEPs

Amendments regarding permanent grassland (Art. 31)

- Delete it
- Add permanent pasture in the whole legislation
- Apply maintenance rule (95%) at national or regional level
- Include semi natural and uncultivated land to be eligible
- Up to 10% rate of conversion (instead of 5)
- Include special cases with more conversion allowed → structural problems, holding transfers
- Allow 5% conversion a year, not 5% conversion at all
- Include temporary grassland in the legislation
- Grassland may be legally ploughed up and reseeded

Commission services, Concept paper and further reflections I

Extension of definition

- Accept surfaces where non-herbaceous species are predominant, but still suitable for grazing
- Part of traditional agricultural or local systems
- Possibility of a reduction coefficient for eligibility
- Out of crop rotation (not ploughed up) for 8 years instead of 5 years



Commission services, Concept paper and further reflections II

Positive elements

- Protection of parcels valuable from an environmental and agricultural point of view
- More flexibility for farmers
- Simpler administration of the scheme
- Still ensuring the maintenance of the most important carbon sinks

Commission services, Concept paper and further reflections III

Changes under the Danish Presidency

- "permanent grassland" not ploughed up or included in crop rotation for 10 years
- Not more than 10 % decrease of permanent grassland on regional or national level
- Afforestation on permanent grassland allowed, if compatible with environmental targets
- Delegated acts by the Commission to establish the framework, within which Member States define objective criteria for PG

Focal points & on-going discussion

- High importance for the whole greening policy
- New proposals to distinguish temporal grassland (< 10 years → crop) and permanent grassland (> 10 years → obligation to maintain)
 - Crop rotation aspect integrated, areas with long cycles still count as temporal grassland
- More areas eligible under new definition (traditional agricultural areas)
 - Reduction coefficient as possibility



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Thank you for your attention!

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13