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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Simplification of the Common Agriculture Policy
- Information from the Commission on state of play and next steps

The Council adopted conclusions on CAP simplification in May 2015 (doc. 8485/15). As stated in the Council conclusions, the aim of the simplification exercise is to reduce the administrative burden and associated costs for farmers and national administrations, while at the same time ensuring the necessary legal stability and not jeopardising sound financial management.

The Council took note of, and exchanged views on, the state of play in November 2015 (doc. 13878/15). The annexed table provides an update on the simplification measures already taken by the Commission.

At the Council meeting on 17 May 2016, Commissioner Hogan is invited to provide an update on the simplification measures already taken and those planned for the coming months, except as regards greening, on which he is expected to report to the Council in June.

CAP simplification – state of play

Measure	Timing
Implementing regulation adopted allowing the deadline for direct payments applications to be extended.	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/747 of 11 May 2015 derogating from Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 as regards the final date of submission of the single application, aid applications or payment claims, the final date for notification of amendments to the single application or payment claim and the final date for applications for allocation of payment entitlements or the increase of the value of payment entitlements under the basic payment scheme for the year 2015, (OJ L 119, 12.5.2015, p. 21)
Delegated regulation adopted providing more flexibility as regards the eligibility conditions for voluntary coupled support for animals.	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1383 of 28 May 2015 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 (EU) as regards the eligibility conditions in relation to the identification and registration requirements for animals for coupled support under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, (OJ L 214, 13.8.2015, p. 1)
Adjustments made to the implementation guidelines for direct payments with effect from 2015 concerning the mapping of EFAs and permanent grassland in the land parcel identification service (LPIS), the concept of adjacency for EFAs, the size of the permitted gap in hedges and wooded strips and the correction of erroneous declarations during on-the-spot controls.	Direct Payment Guidelines ("ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS ACCORDING TO ART. 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 809/2014" and "GUIDANCE FOR ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS (OTSC) AND AREA MEASUREMENT, CLAIM YEAR 2015")

Simplifying IACS regarding preliminary checks of aid applications	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2333 of 14 December 2015 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the integrated administration and control system, rural development measures and cross compliance, (OJ L 329, 15.12.2015, p. 1)
Further simplifications of IACS rules (in particular to reduce the need for certain on-the-spot checks)	
Voluntary coupled support (more flexibility for national administrations)	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/141 of 30.11.2015 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 as regards certain provisions on the payment for young farmers and on voluntary coupled support and derogating from Article 53(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, (OJ L 28, 4.2.2016, p. 2)
Young farmers scheme (giving greater discretion to national administrations regarding the access to the young farmers scheme)	
Market measures (in particular, producer organisations, public intervention and private storage, wine support schemes, fruit and vegetables, trade mechanisms, carcass classification and member states' notifications)	<p>Producer Organisations: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/232 of 15 December 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to certain aspects of producer cooperation, (OJ L 44, 19.2.2016, p. 1)</p> <p>Wine support schemes: Regulations adopted on 15/04/2015 to enter into force following expiry of the scrutiny period. (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 15.4.2016 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the national support programmes in the wine sector and amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) .../...of XXX laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the national support programmes in the wine sector)</p> <p>Regulations on public intervention and private storage and on import and export licenses to be adopted on 18 May 2016.</p>

<p>Direct payments - administrative penalties Introduction of a simplified system of administrative penalties and a "yellow card" system for first-time offenders</p>	<p>DA adopted on May 4 (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 04/05/2016 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 640/2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the integrated administration and control system and conditions for refusal or withdrawal of payments and administrative penalties applicable to direct payments, rural development support and cross compliance)</p> <p>Now subject to scrutiny period. Will be published together with the corresponding Implementing Act at the end thereof.</p>
<p>Rural development: Simplification of publicity requirements for smaller farmers and programming requirements for Financial Instruments</p>	<p>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/669 of 28 April 2016 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014 as regards the amendment and the content of rural development programmes, the publicity for these programmes, and the conversion rates to livestock units, (OJ L 115, 29.4.2016, p. 33)</p>
