



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 23 June 2016
(OR. en)

10475/16

AGRI 360
AGRIORG 54
AGRILEG 98
AGRIFIN 74
AGRISTR 34

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: CAP simplification
- Review of greening after one year

Greening is one of the innovations introduced to the direct payments regime for the 2014-2020 CAP¹. Its aim is to reward farmers for adopting and maintaining a more sustainable approach to the use of agricultural land and for caring for natural resources by adopting practices that contribute to the achievement of the EU's environmental and climate goals.

¹ Regulation (EU) 1307/2013, Delegated Regulation 639/2014 and Implementing Regulation 641/2014

As announced in April 2014 ², the Commission carried out a review of the greening provisions after their first year of application. A public consultation exercise took place from December 2015 to March 2016. It was a wide-ranging exercise, analysing the experience gained from the implementation of greening in Member States, and whether this provided a level playing field, the effect on production potential and on environmental objectives, and the scope for simplifying the greening framework and reducing the administrative burden associated with it.

The Commission will report on the outcome of the consultation, its conclusions and how it intends to implement them shortly. The report will take the form of a Commission Staff Working Document (10476/16).

The measures envisaged are likely to include a package of changes to the delegated and implementing acts pertaining to greening. The aim is for the changes to apply from claim year 2017.

After taking note of the Commissioner's presentation of the report and his preliminary orientations for taking forward its conclusions, the June Council could have an exchange views on whether the proposals correspond to its simplification priorities for greening, as set out in its conclusions of May 2015 ³, and whether they will provide genuine simplification, both for farmers and for national and regional administrations.

² Commission declaration of 2 April 2014 accompanying the adoption of Delegated Regulation 639/2014: *"The Commission undertakes to thoroughly evaluate the experience with the implementation of the obligations on Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) as part of the 'greening' obligations, after the first year of application. In particular, the Commission will ensure that the administrative burden for Member State authorities and producers arising from the application of EFA is kept to an absolute minimum and that procedures are simplified, including those on ditches. The situation in terms of a level playing field due to the implementation of EFA in different Member States will also be examined and addressed if necessary. Should the requirement to meet the EFA obligations result in a noticeable reduction of the production potential of the EU, the Commission will revise the relevant delegated act."*

³ doc. 8485/15