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Subject: Post 2020 CAP reform package
- *Information from the Commission*
- *Exchange of views*

In the first half of 2017 the European Commission carried out a public consultation on "modernising and simplifying the CAP" which in principle confirmed most of the current policy instruments, but highlighted at the same time the excess of bureaucracy as a key obstacle preventing the policy from successfully delivering its objectives. Based on the consultation and the experience of both Member States and the European Institutions, **simplification** and **subsidiarity** are therefore two key objectives of the Commission's proposals for the post-2020 CAP. One might even say that they are the proposals' *leitmotiv*.

Both simplification and subsidiarity should be provided principally through the **new delivery model**, under which basic policy parameters would be set at EU level (common set of objectives, broad types of intervention, basic requirements, principles for controls), with Member States bearing responsibility for how best to meet the objectives and achieve the targets set. The Commission argues that removing EU-level eligibility criteria and allowing Member States to define the details of their interventions, including eligibility conditions, that are most suited to their particular circumstances should provide substantial simplification. For example, under the proposed legislation, rather than having many detailed rules on **investments** set at EU level, the new legislation sets common policy objectives and few basic rules, while Member States would be able to define appropriate measures and eligibility rules, tailored to their individual needs and specificities, on how to achieve them best.

Member States' first reactions have shown the importance that they attach to both simplification and subsidiarity, as well as the need for careful examination of the administrative burden that the proposals might entail for farmers and national authorities.

Questions for ministers

- ⇒ **Do you consider that the proposals go far enough in delivering real simplification for farmers and administrations and true subsidiarity while safeguarding a common framework?**
- ⇒ **If not, can you give concrete examples of where there is scope for further simplification and subsidiarity?**