



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 8 November 2023
(OR. en)

15017/23

AGRI 680
AGRIFIN 134
AGRILEG 275
AGRIORG 132
AGRISTR 58

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Implementation and uptake of CAP Strategic Plan interventions in their first year
- *Exchange of views*

Delegations will find in the Annex a Presidency note on the implementation and uptake of CAP Strategic Plan interventions in their first year for an exchange of views at the SCA on 14 November 2023.

IMPLEMENTATION AND UPTAKE OF CAP STRATEGIC PLAN INTERVENTIONS IN THEIR FIRST YEAR

On 1 January 2023, the CAP Strategic Plans (SPs) started to be implemented in the Member States. The Strategic Plans are the main tool for applying the CAP and were designed on the basis of in-depth analyses of the situation in the different sectors and territories, in order to address the needs identified around economic, environmental and social objectives.

The first year of implementation was a real challenge for most Member States due to several factors. Firstly, the very significance of the reform, with changes to a large number of important elements for CAP beneficiaries, enhanced conditionality, definition of active farmer, redistributive payments and eco-schemes. Secondly, the SPs were adopted by the European Commission in the second half of 2022 and required in many cases the adaptation of national regulations and other procedures within a very limited timeframe for Member States. Last but not least, the market situation due to the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with rising input prices and exceptional weather conditions in a large part of the EU territory have increased the difficulties at the start of this new CAP.

Therefore, to foster knowledge sharing and facilitate successful implementation of this policy across the EU, we invite Member States to share the most relevant aspects concerning the take-up in the first year of the interventions foreseen in the SPs.

The main questions about the implementation of this first year of the CAP SPs revolve around the challenge for Member States in the application campaign for direct payments, and the expected opening/closing dates.

Questions are also raised as to whether farmers have received sufficient information, and in time, on the new interventions they would have to apply.

Another important question is whether it has been possible to maintain, where foreseen, the advance payment periods.

And finally, an obvious crucial question is whether there has been any significant change in the number of applicants or in the area included in the new applications.

The Presidency would like to raise two questions to guide this debate among Member States:

- *What is your assessment of this first year of implementation in relation to the above aspects?*
 - *What can you tell us about the uptake of the new interventions, especially in the case of the eco-schemes, and what factors do you think explain the higher or lower level of uptake compared to expectations?*
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