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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council  
- Targeted compensation for green ambition - Information from the Danish and the Netherlands delegations

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Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) a note from the Danish and the Netherlands delegations on the above-mentioned subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Special Committee on Agriculture on 14 September 2020.

### Using targeted compensation for requirements to reach green ambitions (Article 67)

It is important that pillar 2 can underpin the green transition and that Member States can implement ambitious policies to achieve European objectives. Therefore, it is important to be able to compensate farmers who have to do more than others in order to realize common targets for climate action, clean air and clean water.

The proposals are focused on requirements in a limited number of key areas where it will be difficult to deliver further results on EU ambitions without such compensation. The proposals will *not* allow for payments for mandatory requirements across the board.

Current text	Amendments <b>(in yellow)</b>
<p><i>Article 67 Area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements</i></p> <p>1. Member States may grant payments for area-specific disadvantages imposed by requirements resulting from the implementation of Directives 92/43/EEC, and 2009/147/EC or Directive 2000/60/EC under the conditions set out in this Article and as further specified in their CAP Strategic Plans with the view of contributing to the achievement of <b>one or more of</b> the specific objectives set out in Article 6(4).</p>	<p><i>Article 67 Area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements</i></p> <p>1. Member States may grant payments for area-specific disadvantages imposed by requirements resulting from the implementation of Directives 92/43/EEC [<i>Habitats</i>] and 2009/147/EC [<i>Birds</i>] or Directive 2000/60/EC [<i>Water framework</i>], <b>as well as Directive 91/676/EEC [<i>Nitrates</i>], Directive 2009/128/EC [<i>Sustainable use of pesticides</i>], Directive (EU) 2016/2284 [<i>Reduction of national emissions</i>], and area-related requirements contributing to the CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions of agricultural areas as well as enhancing sinks and carbon stocks</b> under the conditions set out in this Article and as further specified in their CAP Strategic Plans with the view of contributing to the</p>

	achievement of <b><u>one or more of</u></b> the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1).
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*Justification*

The CAP strategic plan regulation allows Member States to grant annual payments in the second pillar for area-specific disadvantages imposed by requirements resulting from the implementation of the Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directives (Article 67). This will be an important tool for Member States trying to achieve cost-effective solutions.

However, maintaining the status quo option to only allow support as regards the Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive will not be enough if the EU is to deliver on its green ambitions. There are many other challenges where compensation for targeted requirements is necessary to deliver on key EU objectives. This notably concerns clean air, pesticides, water quality and climate change where farmers will often be affected differently by requirements. Expanding the scope of Article 67 to cover these areas would give Member States increased possibilities to ensure results, when some farmers will have to do more than other farmers.

