100398/EU XXVIII. GP
Eingelangt am 28/10/26

Council of the European Union

Brussels, 28 October 2026
(OR. en)

14837/26

Interinstitutional File:
2025/0241 (COD)

AGRI 783
AGRIFIN 187
FIN 1500
CADREFIN 439
CODEC 1967
ENV 1279
FORETS 144

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support under the CAP - Partial general approach

Delegations will find attached the text of the partial general approach on the above-mentioned draft Regulation, reached at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 26 October 2026.

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ANNEX

2025/0241 (COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034

Recitals not included

Title I

Subject matter, CAP national recommendations and definitions

Article 1

Subject matter

~~In order to ensure a strong, sustainable and resilient common agricultural policy, Union food security, generational renewal and vibrant rural areas,~~ ***[***This Regulation lays down specific conditions for the implementation of the Union support for the common agricultural policy (CAP) in accordance with the general objective laid down in Article 2, ***paragraph 1,*** point (c), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].***]***

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[This Union support shall be provided under the ~~National and Regional Partnership Fund~~***European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security*** (the 'Fund') in accordance with the rules governing that Fund laid down in Regulation (EU) […] [NRP]***]***.

Article 2

CAP national recommendations and steering

1. The Commission shall adopt ***non-binding*** CAP national recommendations providing guidance to each Member State for the implementation of the CAP-relevant specific objectives set out in Article 3, point (d) ***(i)***, ***(ii), (iii) and (v)*** of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP], within their NRP Plans in line with Article 22 of that Regulation in advance of the submission of the NRP Plans by the Member States. The CAP national recommendations shall be based on the following:

   (a) contribution to fair and sufficient income for farmers and their long-term competitiveness, including the farmers' position in the value chain;

   (b) improvement of attractiveness of the profession and foster generational renewal ***including living standards***;

   (c) enhancing climate action, ecosystem services provision, circular solutions, the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, sustainable farming and improve animal welfare;

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(d) improving resilience, farmers' preparedness and ability to cope with crises and risks;

(e) enhancing the access to knowledge***,*** and accelerate innovation and the digital transition for a thriving agri-food sector~~.~~***;***

(ea) improving the attractiveness and quality of life in rural areas.

~~The CAP national recommendations may be updated by the Commission, as appropriate.~~

2. The Commission shall base the ~~CAP national~~ recommendations ***referred to in paragraph 1,*** on an ***evidence-based*** analysis ***carried out in consultation with the Member State concerned,*** of the situation of the agricultural sector and rural areas, including demographic factors, structural and territorial characteristics as well as food security in each Member State.

3. In the~~ CAP national~~ recommendations ***referred to in paragraph 1***, the Commission shall in particular identify key challenges ~~to be addressed by~~***in*** each Member State ***to be considered in its***~~in their~~ NRP Plan, ~~on the basis of the CAP-relevant specific objectives set out in Article 3, point (d), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP]~~***taking into account relevant national initiatives***.

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Article 2a

[Article 4(13), (14) and (16) NRP Regulation]

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation the following definitions apply:

(1) ~~[~~‘Farmer’ means: ~~(i)~~ a natural or legal person***, or a group of natural or legal persons, regardless of the legal status granted to such group and its members by national law, who has a*** ~~whose~~ holding ~~is situated in the Union and whose principal activity is~~***as defined in Article 4(15) of Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP], and who exercises an*** agricultural activity ***as determined by Member States*** in accordance with ~~the criteria defined by the Member States in line with~~***Article 2b(3) of*** this Regulation~~; or (ii) natural person or small legal person, whose principal activity is not agriculture, but who is engaged in at least a minimum level of agricultural activity, as defined by Member States.~~]

(2) ‘Agricultural Knowledge and ~~Information~~***Innovation*** System’ or ‘AKIS’ means the combined organisation and knowledge flows between persons, organisations and institutions who use and produce knowledge and ~~innovations~~***innovation*** for agriculture and interrelated fields referred to in Article 20 of this Regulation;

(3) ‘organic farming’ means organic production ~~system~~ certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council[1]

(4) ‘the smaller Aegean islands’ means any islands in the Aegean Sea except the islands of Crete and Evia;

[1] Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj).

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Article 2b

[Article 4(21) and (22) NRP Regulation]

Definitions to be provided for in the NRP Plans

1. Member States shall further establish in their NRP Plans the definitions of '~~[~~active farmer~~]~~', 'agricultural activity', 'agricultural area', 'eligible hectare', 'young farmer', and 'new farmer' pursuant to this Article, in accordance with objective and non-discriminatory criteria and the principle of proportionality.

2. ~~[~~'Active farmer'~~]~~ ***shall be determined in such a way as to ensure that support is granted only to farmers engaged in at least a minimum level of agricultural activity, which may include pluri-active or part-time farmers.***

When determining who is an 'active farmer', Member States shall apply criteria, such as income tests, labour inputs on the farm, company object or inclusion of their agricultural activities in national or regional registers. Such criteria may be introduced in one or more forms chosen by Member States, including through a negative list excluding a farmer from being considered to be an active farmer.

If a Member State considers to be 'active farmers' those farmers who received support under interventions referred to in Article 5 (1), points (a), (b), (c) and (g), or who received payments under interventions referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, not exceeding a certain amount for the previous claim year, such an amount shall not exceed EUR 5 000.

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3. ‘Agricultural activity’ shall be determined through ~~one or both of~~ the following activities:

(a) production of agricultural products, which consists of all activities aimed at obtaining those products; where agricultural products ~~means~~***mean*** products listed in Annex I to the TFEU, with the exception of fishery products, as well as cotton and short rotation coppice;

(b) maintenance of agricultural areas, which consists of ~~the~~ activities aiming at keeping the land in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation; where duly justified for animal welfare ~~or~~**,** environmental ***or topographical*** reasons***, and where other forms of maintenance are not considered feasible***, extensive grazing of an agricultural area ~~that does not result in an increase of agricultural production~~**,** for the ~~farmers concerned~~***purpose of keeping the land in a state suitable for grazing or for landscape management,*** may also be considered ‘maintenance’.

4. ‘Agricultural area’ shall be determined ~~in such a way as~~ to comprise only land which is used for agricultural activities, including when it forms agroforestry systems.

5. ‘Eligible hectare’ shall be determined ~~in such a way as~~ to comprise only areas which are at the farmers’ disposal and which comprise:

(a) agricultural areas ***or areas for which support was provided under Title III, Chapter II, Section 2, Subsection 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115,*** on which an agricultural activity is performed ~~under the farmer’s control in terms of management, benefits and financial risks~~***during the year for~~*~~*in*~~ ***which support is requested***. If non-agricultural activities are also performed on these areas, the agricultural activity shall be predominant;

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Where duly justified for environmental, biodiversity or climate-related reasons, Member States may decide that eligible hectares also include certain areas used for agricultural activities only every second year;

(b) areas for which support was provided under interventions referred to in Article 5(1) points (a) and (g) ~~[degressive income support, small farmers]~~ of this Regulation~~,~~ or gave a right to payments under the basic income support for sustainability under Title III, Chapter II, Section 2, Subsection 2, ~~[BISS [all incl. entitlements], small farmers scheme]~~, of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, where agricultural activity is not performed due to commitments and obligations arising from Union ***law*** or ~~national~~ interventions ~~or other programmes~~ which contribute to the environmental and climate-related CAP specific objectives***. If Member States so decide, areas where agricultural activity is not performed, due to commitments and obligations arising from national law or other programmes, may also be included, if they contribute to those objectives***;

(c) ***if*** Member States ~~may~~***so*** decide ~~to include in the notion of 'eligible hectare'~~**,** landscape features, not covered by the commitments and schemes referred to in point (b), provided that these landscape features do not significantly hamper the performance of agricultural activity and are not predominant on the agricultural parcel. ***As regards*** ~~**permanent grassland**~~ ***agricultural area with scattered ineligible features, Member States may decide to apply fixed reduction coefficients to determine the area considered eligible.***

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6. ‘Young farmer’ shall be determined in such a way as to comprise natural or legal persons meeting the definition of ‘farmer’ referred to in Article 2a(1) who fulfil at least the following conditions:

(a) an upper age limit set between 35 years and 40 years ***inclusive***;

(b) being ~~“~~head of the holding~~”~~ ***for the first time***.

~~Where a farmer is deemed to fall within the definition of ‘young farmer’ at the moment of first access to support, that status shall be maintained for the full duration of the period of eligibility established under the relevant support scheme, irrespective of the farmer subsequently exceeding the upper age limit~~***Member States may include further criteria concerning appropriate training or skills***.

7. ‘New farmer’ shall be determined in such a way as to refer to a farmer other than a young farmer and who is head of the holding for the first time.

Member States may include further criteria concerning appropriate training or skills.

7a. ***Where Member States decide to use ‘beehive’ as a basis for payments under interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (b), (f) or (r), they shall establish a definition of ‘beehive’ in their NRP<u>P</u> Plans so that “beehive” is determined as the unit containing a honeybee colony used for the production of honey, other apiculture products or honeybee breeding material, and all the elements necessary for its survival.***

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Title II

General requirements and types of interventions

Chapter I

General requirements

Article 3

Farm stewardship

1. Farm stewardship shall comprise statutory management requirements listed in Annex I, Part A [Annex with SMRs]~~,~~ ***and*** protective practices defined by Member States in the NRP Plan in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article and Annex I, Part C~~, and the social conditionality system which comprises the statutory management requirements listed in Annex I, Part B~~.

2. ***Farmers and other beneficiaries receiving*** payments under ***the following*** interventions ~~referred to in Article 5(1), points (a) to (f), and points (o) and (p), to the extent they concern support for local agricultural products,~~ shall be subject to compliance with ~~a system of statutory management requirements and protective practices collectively referred to as~~ '***the*** farm stewardship'~~.~~***:***

   (i) the interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (a) to (f), and

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(ii) the interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (o) and (p) that concern support for local agricultural products referred to in Article 48 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

~~The list of statutory management requirements and the objectives of protective practices are set out in Annex I.~~

~~However, the conditions of farm stewardship listed in Annex I, Parts A and C, shall not apply to farmers receiving support under Article 5(1), point (g).~~

3. Support subject to the farm stewardship conditions ***listed in Annex I, Parts A and C, and payments under the intervention referred to in Article 5 (1) point (g) of this Regulation*** shall be deemed to comply with the principle of 'do no significant harm' in accordance with Article 33(2), point (d), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

For the purposes of this Article, 'statutory management requirement' means each individual requirement listed in Annex I, ~~Parts A and B~~***Part A***, set out within a given legal act listed in Annex I, ~~Parts A and B~~***Part A***, differing in substance from any other requirement in the same act.

The legal acts listed in Annex I concerning the statutory management requirements shall apply in the version that is applicable and, in the case of Directives, as implemented by the Member States. ~~Acts implementing directives may however not have the purpose or effect of an exemption of farmers or other beneficiaries from the statutory management requirements listed in Annex I, Parts A and B.~~

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4. Member States shall define ~~in accordance with Annex I, Part C,~~ at a national or regional level, protective practices ~~to be respected by farmers and other beneficiaries receiving the support referred to in paragraph 2~~***in accordance with the specific objectives in Annex I, Part C***, to achieve the following ***general*** objectives:

(a) protection of ~~carbon-rich~~***carbon rich*** soils~~, landscape features and permanent grasslands on agricultural area~~;

(aa) protection of biodiversity and landscape;

(b) protection of soil ~~against erosion, preservation of the soil potential, maintenance of soil organic matter, including through crop rotation or diversification, as well as protection against burning of stubble on arable land~~***health and resilience***;

(c) protection of water courses ~~and ground water against pollution and runoff~~.

In defining their protective practices, Member States may decide to set them in a way consistent with mandatory requirements established by national law and do not go beyond them, provided that those existing national mandatory requirements comply with the specific objectives listed in Annex I, Part C, to this Regulation.

Where a specific objective listed in Annex I, Part C, also includes minimum practices, Member States shall not be required to define protective practices additional to such practices. Member States may define additional protective practices, concerning those general and specific objectives. Member States shall not define additional protective practices pursuing objectives other than the general objectives listed.

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5. Member States shall include in the NRP Plan a description of the protective practices defined for each of the ***general*** objectives set out in paragraph 4 including their territorial scope, farmers and other beneficiaries subject to the practice**s** and a summary of ~~the~~ **each** protective practice. ~~In setting the protective practices, Member States shall take utmost account of the CAP national recommendations referred to in Article 2.~~ Member States shall adapt***, where relevant,*** the protective practices to different land management systems ~~and~~***,*** different environmental and climatic conditions ***and other specificities*** in their territory.

6. Farmers ~~whose entire holding is~~***and other beneficiaries*** certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council[2] shall be ~~deemed to comply with~~***exempt from the*** protective practices ~~set out in the NRP Plans in respect to objectives set out in paragraph 4~~***listed in Annex I, Part C***, points (b) and (c) ***to this Regulation, in relation to their organic production units, as defined in Article 3, point (10), of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, and their in-conversion production units, as defined in Article 3, point (11), of that Regulation***.

Member States may, taking into consideration the administrative burden of checks, decide that only farmers or other beneficiaries, certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 whose entire holding consists of organic production units, as defined in Article 3, point (10), of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, or of in-conversion production units, as defined in Article 3, point (11), of that Regulation, or of both such production units, are exempt from the protective practices listed in Annex I, Part C, points (b) and (c) to this Regulation.

[2] Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) ~~No~~ 834/2007***No 834/2007*** (OJ L 150 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj).

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7. In setting the protective practices referred to in paragraph 4, Member States may establish in their NRP Plan specific exemptions from those protective practices based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria, such as crops, soil types and farming systems***, geographic or climatic conditions*** or damage to permanent grasslands due, inter alia, to wild animals or invasive species. Those specific exemptions shall be limited in terms of their ***agricultural*** area coverage, shall be established only in the event, and to the extent, that they are necessary to address specific problems in the application of those practices and shall not ***significantly*** hamper ***the achievement of*** the objectives set out in paragraph 4 ~~or distort competition~~.

8. Member States may grant temporary derogations from protective practices, where weather conditions***, plant diseases or pest infestations*** prevent farmers and other beneficiaries from implementing those practices ~~or where the implementation of those protective practices would hamper the objectives set out in paragraph 4~~. Member States shall ensure that the temporary derogations are limited in their scope and duration to the extent necessary, ***that they are*** granted based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria and that they do not ***significantly*** hamper ***the achievement of*** the objectives set out in paragraph 4 ~~or distort competition~~***. When a temporary derogation is granted, it shall be granted without an amendment to the NRP plan***.

9. Member States may recognise the management ~~practices~~ ***commitments*** under agri-environmental and climate actions referred to in Article 10(***a***)~~, point (a)~~, that contribute to the objectives set out in paragraph 4 of this Article**,** in an equivalent way as the relevant protective practices established in the NRP Plan pursuant to that paragraph. Member States may deem farmers and other beneficiaries who commit to implement those equivalent ~~practices~~ ***commitments*** to be compliant with the relevant protective practice.

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Article 4

Environment and climate priority areas

1. Member States shall provide support to farmers ~~and other beneficiaries at least~~ in each of the following ~~environmental~~***environment*** and climate priority areas:

(a) climate change adaptation ~~and~~***or*** water resilience;

(b) climate change mitigation***: such as enhancing*** ~~including~~ carbon removals ~~and~~***or*** on-farm renewable energy production, including biogas production;

(c) ***sustainable management of natural resources: such as air, soil, water, preservation of biodiversity, conservation of habitats, species or landscape features, or sustainable use of pesticides***~~soil health~~;

(d) ~~preservation of biodiversity,~~***sustainable livestock management:*** such as ~~conservation of habitats or species, landscape features, reduction of use of pesticides~~ ***extensification, genetic resources or animal health and welfare***;

(e) development of organic farming~~;~~

~~(f) animal health and welfare.~~

~~Member States with areas affected by water pollution due to nitrate surplus shall provide support to farmers for extensification of livestock systems or for diversification to other agricultural activities~~.

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2. For ~~each of~~ the priority areas***, the support*** referred to in paragraph 1 ~~support~~***,*** shall be provided under the conditions laid down in Articles ***8, 9, 10, 13 or 19(1)(a)*** ~~9, 10 and 13~~.

The obligation to provide support in a priority area in accordance with paragraph 1, shall not apply where a Member State demonstrates in its NRP Plan the existence of national provisions or instruments that address that priority area.

Chapter II

Types of interventions

Article 5

[Article 35(3) NRP Regulation added]

Types of *CAP interventions and financial* support *provisions*

1. The following ***types of*** CAP interventions are set out:

(a) degressive area-based income support;

(b) coupled income support;

(c) ~~crop-specific~~***crop-specific*** payment for cotton;

(d) payment for natural and other area specific constraints;

(e) support for disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements;

(f) ***support for*** agri-environmental and climate actions;

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(g) payment for small farmers;

(h) support for risk management tools;

(i) support for investments for farmers ~~and~~***,*** forest holders ***and undertakings which process or market agricultural products. For non-productive investments contributing to the specific objectives listed in Article 3(1)(d)(v) of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP - Specific objectives of the Fund], other beneficiaries may also be supported***;

(j) support for setting-up of young farmers, new farmers, rural business ~~and~~ start-ups***,*** ***farm household income diversification and business*** ~~and~~ development of small farms;

(k) support for farm relief services;

(l) ***support for*** LEADER;

(m) support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;

(n) ***support for*** territorial ***development*** and local cooperation ~~initiatives~~;

(o) ***support for*** interventions in outermost regions***, as referred to in Article X of Regulation (EU) .../... [NRP Regulation]***;

(p) ***support for*** interventions in smaller Aegean islands;

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(q) ***support for the*** EU school scheme referred to in ~~Title I,~~ Part II***, Title I***, Chapter IIa, ***Section 2*** of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[3];

(r) ***support for*** interventions in certain sectors referred to in ~~Title I,~~ Part II***, Title I***, Chapter IIa, ***Section 3*** of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;

(s) crisis payments ~~for~~***to*** farmers ***following natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events***.

2. ***The*** interventions referred to in paragraph 1, points (a) to (k)~~, and interventions in certain sectors referred to in Title I~~ ***and (r)***~~, Part II, Chapter IIa, of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013~~ shall be income support interventions to be financed from the Fund in accordance with Article 10(2), point (a)~~, second subparagraph,~~***(ii)*** of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

3. ~~Production of~~ Hemp varieties with Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content exceeding 0,3% shall not be eligible for support under this Regulation.

3a. The beneficiaries of interventions referred to in paragraph 1, points (a) to (d), (g), (h), and (k), shall be active farmers in accordance with Article 2b(2) of this Regulation. In the case of other interventions, Member States may decide that beneficiaries shall be active farmers.

[3] Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj).

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3b. ***Member States may decide that a farmer continues to meet the definition of "young farmer" in accordance with Article 2b(6) of this Regulation, in the following cases:***

(a) ***A farmer who meets the definition of "young farmer" at the moment of their first access to support for an intervention that provides dedicated support for young farmers as identified by the Member State in its NRP plan, for a maximum duration of seven years, provided that the farmer remains the head of the holding.***

(b) ***A farmer who received support under Article 30 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, for the remainder of the period referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 30 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, provided that the farmer remains head of the holding.***

3c. ***For each of the interventions referred to in paragraph 1, Member States may decide that applicants who reach the retirement age, determined by national law, and who receive a retirement pension, are no longer eligible to receive support under ~~this Article~~ those interventions. Member States that make use of this possibility shall ensure compliance with the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination and shall justify it under the objectives of better targeting of the income support or generational renewal.***

3d. ***In the case of a legal person, or a group of natural or legal persons, Member States may apply the relevant reductions, support rates including capping, or payments per hectare, set out in the NRP Plans as required by Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] and this Regulation, for interventions referred to in points (a), (f) and (j) of paragraph 1 of this Article, at the level of the members of those legal persons or groups, where national law provides for the individual members to assume rights and obligations comparable to those of individual farmers who have the status of a head of holding, in particular as regards their economic, social and tax status, provided that they have contributed to strengthening the agricultural structures of the legal persons or groups concerned.***

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Article 6

[Article 35(3), second subparagraph, NRP Regulation added as paragraph 7a]

Degressive area-based income support

1. Member States shall provide ***annual*** area-based income support for eligible hectares to ***active*** farmers to address income needs.

2. ~~The payment per~~***Member States shall provide for a higher area-based income support for*** eligible ~~hectare shall be differentiated by groups of~~***hectares to young*** farmers~~ or geographical areas, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria. The groups of farmers or geographical areas that are basis for the differentiation of payments shall be established based on farmers' income from agricultural activity in a representative reference period.~~

~~When differentiating the payments,~~ Member States ~~shall target the~~***may also differentiate the area-based income*** support ~~at farmers who are the most in need, in particular young and new~~***for eligible hectares to target other categories of*** farmers, ~~women, family or small farmers~~***geographic areas***, ~~farmers combining the production of crops and livestock or farmers in~~ ***agronomic*** areas ~~with natural or other area-specific constraints~~***, or traditional forms of agriculture that have differing income needs as*** determined ~~in accordance with Article 8.~~***by the Member State.***

The level of support shall be determined based on agricultural income over a representative reference period, or based on other objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

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Member States may provide for a differentiated payment amount per eligible hectare or different payment amounts for different ranges of eligible hectares per farmer.

The differentiation of payments may take the form of annual lump sum payments that replace fully or partially the area-based income support per eligible hectare. ~~Members States shall increase the support per eligible hectare granted to young farmers.~~

3. ***[***The total amount of payments per farmer established in accordance with paragraph 2 shall be degressive in accordance with the following rules:

(a) Member States shall reduce the annual amount of the area-based income support exceeding EUR 20 000 to be granted to a farmer by 25 % where the amount of the area-based income support granted to a farmer is between EUR 20 000 and EUR 50 000;

(b) Member States shall reduce the annual amount of the area-based income support exceeding EUR 50 000 to be granted to a farmer by 50 % where the amount of the area-based income support granted to a farmer is more than EUR 50 000 and not more than EUR 75 000;

(c) Member States shall reduce the annual amount of the area-based income support exceeding EUR 75 000 to be granted to a farmer by 75 % where the amount of the area-based income support granted to a farmer exceeds EUR 75 000.***]***

4. ***[***The total amount of area-based income support shall not be higher than maximum EUR 100 000 per farmer per year. In the case of a legal person or groups of legal persons, the capping shall cover all holdings under the control of one legal or natural person.***]***

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5. ~~The Member States shall ensure that the support under this Article is primarily directed towards farmers who exercise an agricultural activity on their holding and actively contribute to food security. Small farmers, whose principal activity is not agriculture, but who are engaged in at least a minimum level of agricultural activity, as set out by Member States, shall be considered farmers as well.~~

6. ***~~Member States shall ensure that at the latest by 2032 themay decide that applicants who reach the retirement age, determined by national law, and who receive a retirement pension, are no longer to receive support under this Article. Member States that make use of this possibility shall ensure compliance with the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination and shall justify it under the objectives of better targeting of the income support or generational renewal.~~***

~~7.~~ ~~Member States shall ensure that the eligible hectare comprises only areas which are at the farmers' disposal and which comprise:~~

~~(a)~~ ~~agricultural areas on which an agricultural activity is performed under the farmer's controls in terms of management, benefits and financial risks. If non-agricultural activities are also performed on these areas, the agricultural activity shall be predominant;~~

~~(b)~~ ~~areas for which support is provided under Article 5(1), points (a) and (g), or under the basic income support for sustainability under Title III, Chapter II, Section 2, Subsection 2, of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, where agricultural activity is not performed due to commitments and obligations arising from Union or national interventions or other programmes which contribute to the CAP environmental and climate priority areas referred to in Article 4;~~

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~~(c) Member States may decide to include in the 'eligible hectare' landscape features, not covered by the commitments and schemes referred to in point (b), provided that these landscape features do not significantly hamper the performance of agricultural activity and are not predominant on the agricultural parcel.~~

7a. The planned average aid per hectare for degressive area-based income support under this Article shall not be less than EUR [130] and not more than EUR [240] for each Member State. [Article 35(3), second subparagraph, NRP]

Article 7

Payment for small farmers

1. Member States ~~shall~~***may*** provide income support to small farmers, as determined by the Member States**,** replacing the support under interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (a), (b) and (d). Member States shall design the intervention in the NRP Plan as optional for farmers.

~~The Member States shall ensure that the~~ Support under this article ~~is primarily directed towards~~***may only be granted to active*** farmers ~~who exercise an agricultural activity on their holding and actively contribute to food security~~.

The annual payment for each small farmer shall not exceed EUR 3 000.

2. Member States may differentiate support granted under this Article for different ~~groups~~***categories*** of farmers or ~~geographical areas~~***groups of territories***.

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Article 8

Payment for natural ~~or~~*and* other area-specific constraints

1. Member States ~~shall~~***may*** provide support to compensate ***active*** farmers for natural or other area-specific constraints.

2. ~~The payment for areas with natural and other specific constraints may~~***If a Member State decides to grant support under this article, it shall*** be provided in respect of ***at least one of the following categories of*** areas that:

   (a) were designated pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[4];

   (b) are newly designated ***by Member States*** in view of specific constraints ~~defined by Member States~~***in accordance with paragraph 2a*** and have been included in the NRP Plan.

   ~~Member States may carry out a fine-tuning with the purpose of excluding areas within the areas designated in accordance the first subparagraph, points (a) and (b), under the conditions laid down in Article 32(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.~~

   The surface of the areas ***newly*** designated pursuant to the first subparagraph, point (b), shall not exceed 2 % of the utilised agricultural area of the Member State concerned.

[4] Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1305/oj).

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2a. ***Member States may designate new areas referred to in paragraph 2, point (b) that are affected by specific constraints defined by Member States in their NRP Plans, and if it is necessary for land management practices to be continued on those areas in order to conserve or improve the environment, to maintain the countryside, to preserve the tourist potential of the areas, or to protect the coastline.***

2b. ***Member States may carry out a fine-tuning with the purpose of excluding areas within the areas designated in accordance with paragraph 2, points (a) or (b). The fine-tuning shall be based on objective criteria and shall exclude areas where significant natural or specific constraints have been documented but have been overcome by investments, or by economic activity, or by evidence of normal land productivity, or in which production methods or farming systems have offset the income loss or added costs.***

3. The payments per eligible hectare shall be ~~limited to~~***annual and granted to compensate farmers for all or part of*** the additional costs ~~or loss of~~***and*** income ***foregone*** related to undertaking agricultural production in the designated areas compared to production in non-designated areas.

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Article 9

Support for disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements

1. Member States may provide ***annual*** area-based support in agricultural and forest areas for disadvantages resulting from the implementation of:

   (a) Council Directive 92/43/EEC[5] and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[6];

   (b) Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[7].

   In addition to the areas referred to in the first subparagraph, point (a), Member States may decide to support other delimited nature protection areas with environmental restrictions applicable to farming or forestry which contribute to the implementation of Article 10 of Directive 92/43/EEC, provided that those areas do not exceed ~~5~~***7*** % of the designated Natura 2000 areas covered by the NRP Plan.

2. Payments under this Article may be granted to farmers, forest holders and ~~their~~***forest holder*** associations ***as well as to other beneficiaries***.

3. Member States may only grant payments under this Article in order to compensate beneficiaries for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone related to the compliance with mandatory requirements resulting from the implementation of the Union acts and provisions listed in paragraph 1~~, first subparagraph,~~ including transaction costs.

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5 Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/43/oj).

6 Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/147/oj).

7 Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj).

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Article 10

[Article 36(2) NRP Regulation added in paragraph 4]

***Support for* Agri-environmental and climate actions**

1. Member States shall provide incentives for ~~the following~~***voluntary*** actions ~~beneficial for the climate,~~***contributing to the*** environment~~, animal health and welfare and sustainable forestry:~~ ***and climate priority areas referred to in Article 4 or the specific objectives referred to in Article 3 (1) (d) (iii) and (v) of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].***

~~(a)~~***1a.*** ~~voluntary~~***In particular, Member States shall provide support to farmers and other beneficiaries for:***

(i) annual management commitments or

(ii) multi-annual management commitments ~~taken up~~***undertaken*** ~~by farmers and other beneficiaries, including commitments to maintain organic farming and extensification of livestock production, established and implemented in accordance with paragraph 3;~~**.**

~~(b)~~***1b.*** ~~voluntary~~***Member States may provide support for*** transition ~~towards resilient production systems carried out by~~***actions to support*** farmers ***to make changes*** at ~~the level of the~~ holding ***level (***or ~~for~~ part of a holding~~, including conversion to organic~~***) towards more environmentally sustainable and resilient*** farming ~~and extensification of livestock production~~ systems~~, established and implemented in accordance with paragraph 4~~.

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~~2.~~ ~~Each Member State shall provide support for organic farming certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council[8] and extensive livestock production systems under both forms of action referred to in paragraph 1.~~

3. The ~~management commitments~~***support*** referred to in paragraph ~~1, point (a), may be annual or multiannual and may have in particular the following objectives~~***1a, may relate to***:

(a) ***actions on*** protection of water quality and reduction of pressure on water resources, protection of soil, nutrient management, ***protection of air quality,*** biodiversity conservation ***and restoration***, including landscape features and ~~reduction of~~ the ***sustainable*** use of pesticides;

(b) ***actions on*** climate change mitigation, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and ***the protection of carbon stocks in soils and biomass and increasing*** carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation, including animal and plant diversity for resilient ecosystems;

(c) ***actions on*** animal health and welfare, including combating ~~of~~ antimicrobial resistance;

(d) ***conservation,*** sustainable use and development of genetic resources; or

(e) forest environmental services and forest conservation.

~~8~~ ~~Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj).~~

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4. Support for the transition actions referred to in paragraph ~~1, point (b)~~***1b***, shall ***be*** granted on the basis of ~~a transition action plan drawn up by a farmer and approved by the Member State. To implement the support for transition~~ actions ~~referred to in paragraph 1, point (b)~~***which facilitate a holding, or part of a holding, to evolve towards more environmentally sustainable and resilient production systems. Where relevant***, Member States shall describe ***these systems in their*** ~~in the~~ NRP Plan ~~the production systems that they deem beneficial for the climate and environment.~~**.**

Member States shall determine the amount of support for transition actions referred to in paragraph 1b, based on cost estimates of those transition actions. Member States shall grant support for transition actions in the form of lump sums that shall be limited to EUR [200 000] per farmer per programming period of the NRP Plan.

Member States ~~shall pay the support to farmers in instalments over the period of implementation of the~~***may use*** transition action ~~plan. The payment of the last instalment shall be conditional upon completion of the implementation of the~~***plans submitted by beneficiaries to administer the support for transition actions. Support for*** transition ~~action plan. Member States shall ensure that the payments are recovered if the farmer fails to implement the transition action plan~~***actions may be paid in one or more instalments***.

5. Member States shall only grant support for ~~management~~ commitments ***or actions*** referred to in ~~paragraph 1, point (a)~~***paragraphs 1a and 1b***, which go beyond the relevant statutory management requirements referred to in Annex I, Part A, and the relevant minimum requirements for the use of fertiliser and plant protection products, animal welfare and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national and Union law.

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However, where national law imposes requirements which go beyond the corresponding mandatory minimum requirements laid down in Union law, support may be granted for management commitments ***or transition actions*** referred to in ~~paragraph 1, point (a)~~***paragraphs 1a and 1b***, contributing to compliance with those ***national*** requirements.

5a. Member States shall ensure that a revision clause is provided in order to ensure the adjustment of the multiannual management commitments or transition actions as a consequence of amendments to the relevant statutory management requirements~~,~~ relevant minimum requirements and other relevant mandatory requirements ~~referred to in Article 3,~~ paragraph 5, sub-paragraph 1, which management commitments and transition actions have to go beyond. If subsequent adjustments are not accepted by the participant, the management commitment or transition action shall expire and no reimbursement of payments under this Article shall be required in respect of the period during which the management commitment or transition actions were effective.

Member States shall also ensure that a revision clause is provided for operations implemented under the type of intervention referred to in this Article which extend beyond the National and Regional Partnership Plan period, in order to allow for their adjustment to the legal framework applicable in the following period.

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Article 11

[Article 35(5) NRP Regulation added as paragraph 4a]

Coupled income support

1. Member States shall provide coupled income support to ***active*** farmers in specific agricultural sectors and products, where relevant defined in accordance with Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, or to specific types of farming therein, which undergo difficulties and are important for socio-economic or environmental reasons.

   Coupled income support shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible hectare or per animal or per animal equivalent~~, defined in accordance with Annex II~~.

   Member States may grant support in the form of a payment per hectare only for areas they have determined as eligible hectares in accordance with Article ~~6(7)~~***2b(5)***.

   Support granted as a payment per hectare may include support for short rotation coppice and grasses and other herbaceous forage. Support shall not be granted to the tobacco and wine sectors.

   Support may also be granted for oil-bearing rose. In this case the support shall be granted as payment per eligible hectare planted with oil-bearing rose.

   Support granted as a payment per animal ***or per animal equivalent*** shall be limited to the beef and veal, milk and milk products, ~~sheep and goat meats~~***sheepmeat and goatmeat***, apiculture products and silkworms sectors.

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2. The support referred to in paragraph 1 shall, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, address additional income needs ***related to the difficulties of the targeted sector, product or specific type of farming***. ***Member States may demonstrate the difficulties of the targeted sectors by updating the analysis provided for interventions in their CAP Strategic Plans using the latest available data. Member States shall not be required to demonstrate the difficulties encountered in relation to protein crops.***

~~3. When planning the support referred to in paragraph 1, Member States shall minimise the potential impact of their support decisions on the internal market.~~

4. For support granted as a payment per animal to the livestock sectors, Member States shall take into account environmental impacts~~, including by setting a maximum livestock density criteria in nitrate vulnerable zones~~.

4a. The financial allocation to coupled income support interventions under this Article shall be limited to ~~***either:***~~

(a) a fixed ceiling of up to EUR {6} ~~{4}~~ million per year; or

(b) a maximum of 20% of the Union contribution set out by the Member– State in the NRP Plan for CAP income support interventions referred to in Article 5(1)**,** points (a), (c), (f) and (g)***. In this case, the*** ~~of this Regulation. This~~ percentage ***allocated*** may be increased by a maximum of 5 percentage points, provided that the amount corresponding to the percentage exceeding 20% is allocated to protein crops, farmers combining the production of crops and livestock or agricultural areas at a risk of abandonment of agricultural production**,** in particular in the Eastern border regions, ***as*** defined in the NRP Plans**; or**~~. For the purposes of this Article, Eastern border regions means Union NUTS2 regions bordering the Russian Federation, Belarus or the Ukraine, by land or sea, not covering the entire territory of the Member State concerned. [Article 35(5) of the NRP]~~

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(c) Member States that, in accordance with Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115, used for the purpose of coupled income support more than 13 % of their annual national ceiling set out in Annex IX to that Regulation may decide to use for the purpose of coupled income support a maximum annual amountceiling equivalent to that does not exceed the financial allocation for coupled income support interventions in the Member State concerned under their CAP Strategic Plan in claim year 2026.

4b. ***Member States shall indicate in their NRP Plans which of the options under points (a), (b) or (c) they choose to apply.***

Article 11a

[Article 39 NRP Regulation]

Crop-specific payment for cotton

1. Bulgaria, Greece, Spain and Portugal shall grant a crop-specific payment for cotton to farmers producing cotton falling within CN code 5201 00. Those Member States shall establish specific requirements to guarantee a minimum level of production efficiency and product quality.

2. The Member States referred to in paragraph 1 shall ensure that the supported cotton production does not put excessive strain on natural resources such as water and soil. To that end, or for other environmental or socio-economic reasons, those Member States may grant the aid only for specific cotton varieties, in specific regions, or for specific types of farming, or may establish requirements related to agronomic practices.

3. The crop-specific payment for cotton shall be granted per hectare of eligible area of cotton.

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4. The following national base areas are established:

(a) Bulgaria: 3 342 ha;

(b) Greece: 250 000 ha;

(c) Spain: 48 000 ha;

(d) Portugal: 360 ha.

5. The following fixed yields in the reference period are established:

(a) Bulgaria: 1.2 tonne/ha;

(b) Greece: 3.2 tonne/ha;

(c) Spain: 3.5 tonne/ha;

(d) Portugal: 2.2 tonne/ha.

6. The amount of the crop-specific payment per hectare of eligible area shall be calculated by multiplying the yields laid down in paragraph 4 with the following reference amounts:

(a) Bulgaria: EUR 636.13;

(b) Greece: EUR 229.37;

(c) Spain: EUR 354.73;

(d) Portugal: EUR 223.32.

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7. If the eligible area of cotton in a given Member State in a given year does not exceed the base area laid down in paragraph 4, then the amount per hectare referred to in paragraph 6 may be increased either by a coefficient obtained by dividing the national base area by the actual eligible area, or increased by 25%, whichever is smaller.

8. If the eligible area exceeds the base area, the amount per hectare shall be reduced proportionately to the overrun of the base area.

9. For the purposes of this Article, an ‘approved interbranch organisation’ means a legal entity made up of and founded by farmers producing cotton and at least one ginner. Such organisations shall ensure efficient and durable action with the goal to concentrate supply and to adapt production to market requirements.

10. The Member State where the ginners are established shall approve interbranch organisations that satisfy the criteria laid down in paragraph 9.

11. In the case of farmers who are members of an approved interbranch organisation, the crop-specific payment for cotton for hectares that are eligible within the national base area laid down in paragraph 4 shall be increased by an amount of EUR 2. For this purpose, Member States may establish specific requirements for the members of such interbranch organisations.

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Article 12

Support for ~~participation in~~ risk management tools

1. Member States shall provide support to ***active*** farmers for participation in risk management tools. Member States shall ensure that support is granted only for losses which exceed a threshold of at least 20 % of the average annual production or income of the farmer in the preceding three-year period, or a three-year average based on the preceding five-year period excluding the highest and lowest entry.

   ~~By way of derogation from the first subparagraph,~~ Member States ~~that demonstrate in the NPR Plan the existence of national systems which provide risk coverage for farmers~~ shall be exempt from the obligation to include in their NRP plan interventions for risk management tools under this article~~.~~ ***if they ~~that~~ demonstrate in the NRP Plan the following:***

   (a) the existence of private or public systems which provide risk management tools for farmers in the Member State concerned; or

   (b) that farmers in the Member State have access to voluntary support for actions or investments for risk mitigation, crisis preparation or climate adaptation under the NRP Plan, as determined by the Member State;

2. Sectoral production risk management tools shall calculate the losses either at holding level, at the level of the holding's activity in the sector concerned or related to the specific area insured.

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For permanent crops and in other justified cases for which the calculation methods referred to in the first subparagraph are not appropriate, Member States may provide for a method for calculation of the losses based on the average annual production or income of the farmer over a period that does not exceed eight years, excluding the highest and lowest entry.

3. Member States may apply an appropriate alternative method for calculating the losses for young farmers and new farmers.

4. Member States shall establish the methodology for the calculation of losses and triggering factors for compensation in their NRP Plan. Member States shall ensure that any overcompensation resulting from the combination of the interventions under this Article with other public or private risk management schemes is avoided.

4a. In addition to paragraph 1, Member States may decide to provide payments on behalf of active farmers, as their private contributions, to insurance schemes and mutual funds that insure against losses as referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 13

[Article 36(3) NRP Regulation added as paragraph 6b]

Support for investments for farmers ~~and~~, forest holders *and undertakings which process or market agricultural products*

1. Member States shall grant support under this Article for productive and non-productive investments ***in tangible and intangible assets,*** making an appropriate overall contribution to ***the competitiveness and*** resilience of agriculture~~, food systems, forestry~~ and rural areas, in particular climate and water resilience***, the agrifood sector, or forestry***. Member States shall explain in their NRP Plans how they plan to grant such support.

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1a. ***Member States shall grant support under this Article to farmers.***

1b. ***Member States may grant support to forest holders and their associations, and to farmers' associations.***

1c. ***Member States may also grant support to:***

(a) ***undertakings which process or market agricultural products for investments in processing or marketing of agricultural products;***

(b) ***other beneficiaries, provided those beneficiaries are supported only for non-productive investments contributing to the specific objectives listed in Article 3(1)(d)(v) of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].***

2. For holdings above a certain size, to be determined by Member States in their NRP Plans, support for the forestry sector***, if relevant,*** shall be conditional on the presentation of the relevant information from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in accordance with the sustainable management of forests as defined in the most recent version of Forest Europe's General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe.

3. Support for investments in the restoration of agricultural or forestry production potential damaged by natural disasters, adverse climate events or catastrophic events***, including those caused by animal and plant diseases,*** shall be granted only when the event concerned has caused the destruction of at least 30 % of the agricultural production potential or at least 20 % of the forestry production potential.

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4. Member States shall establish a list of ineligible investments and categories of expenditure, including at least the following:

(a) purchase of agricultural production rights;

(b) purchase of land for an amount exceeding 10 % of the total eligible expenditure for the operation concerned, with the exception of land purchase for environmental conservation and carbon-rich soil preservation;

(c) purchase of animals, and purchase of annual plants and their planting for a purpose other than:

(i) restoring agricultural or forestry potential following natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events***, including those caused by animal and plant diseases***;

(ii) protecting livestock against large predators ~~or being used in forestry instead of machinery~~;

(iia) ***to be used in forestry to replace machinery;***

(iii) rearing endangered breeds as defined in Article 2, point (24), of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council[9] under the management commitments referred to in Article 10(1), point (a);

[9] Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals, hybrid breeding pigs and the germinal products thereof and amending Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, Council Directives 89/608/EEC and 90/425/EEC and repealing certain acts in the area of animal breeding ('Animal Breeding Regulation') (OJ L 171, 29.6.2016, p. 66) ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1012/oj).

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(iv) rearing of bovine, sheep or goat pure-bred animals of high genetic value for breeding to improve the quality and productivity of livestock herds or to preserve rare or local breeds;

(v) preserving plant varieties under threat of genetic erosion under the commitments referred to in Article 10(1), point (a);

(d) interest rate on debt, except in relation to grants given in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy ~~.~~***;***

(da) investments in afforestation which are not consistent with environmental and climate-related objectives in line with sustainable forest management principles.

5. By way of derogation from paragraph 4, points (a), (b) and (c), that requirement shall not apply where the support is provided through financial instruments.

6. Where Union law results in the imposition of new requirements on farmers, support may be granted for investments to comply with those requirements for a maximum period of 36 months from the date on which they become mandatory for the holding. ***Only the expenditure incurred to comply with new Union law requirements shall be eligible for support under this paragraph.***

~~Member States may only grant payments under this paragraph in order to compensate beneficiaries for all or part of the additional costs related to the compliance with those requirements.~~

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6a. For young farmers setting up for the first time in an agricultural holding as head of the holding support for investments to comply with the requirements of Union law may be granted for a maximum period of 36 months from the date of setting up, or until the actions defined in the business plan referred to in Article 14(3) are completed. ~~Member States may only grant payments under this paragraph in order to compensate beneficiaries for all or part of the additional costs related to the compliance with those requirements.~~

6b. ~~Where public~~ Support ~~granted~~ under this article ~~for an investment operation does not exceed EUR 100 000 and is not subject to rules on public procurement, that support shall~~***may*** take the form of standard scales of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates. [Article 36(3) NRP]

Article 14

***Support for* setting-up of young farmers*, new farmers,* rural business ~~start-up and~~*start-ups, farm household income diversification and business* development of small farms**

1. Member States shall provide support ~~for the setting-up of young farmers and the start-up of rural businesses, including the setting-up of new farmers~~, under the conditions laid down in this Article and as further specified in their NRP Plans***, for the setting-up of young farmers who fulfil the conditions provided for by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article 2b(6)***.

~~2.~~ ~~Member States may only grant support under this Article to help:~~

~~(a) the setting-up of young farmers who fulfil the conditions provided for by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article 4(22), point (d), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];~~

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~~(b) the start-up of rural businesses linked to agriculture or forestry including the setting up of new farmers, or farm household income diversification into non-agricultural activities;~~

2a. Member States may provide support, under the conditions laid down in this Article and as further specified in their NRP Plans, for:

(a) ~~the start-up of rural businesses~~***farm household income diversification into non-agricultural activities***;

(b) ~~the~~ business development of small farms, as determined by Member States.

(c) setting-up of new farmers who fulfil the conditions provided for by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article 2b(7).

(***d***) ***rural business start-ups.***

3. Member States shall set conditions for the submission and the content of a business plan which beneficiaries must provide in order to receive support under this Article.

4. Member States shall grant support in the form of lump sums or financial instruments or a combination of both. Support shall be limited to the maximum amount of aid of EUR 300 000 ***per project*** and may be differentiated in accordance with objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

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Article 15

Strategy for **Generational Renewal** ~~strategy~~***in Agriculture***

Member States shall ~~establish~~***describe*** in their NRP Plan a Strategy ~~on~~***for*** Generational Renewal in Agriculture to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of interventions targeting young farmers under this Regulation, ***other measures supported under the NRP Plan*** and national initiatives. The ~~Strategy~~ ***description*** shall ~~include~~***set out***:

(a) an assessment of the current demographic situation in the agricultural sector ***and identification of entry barriers for young farmers***;

~~(b) identification of entry barriers for young farmers and proposed national initiatives and measures to overcome them;~~

(c) ~~description of~~ how the Starter pack for young farmers referred to in Article 16 will be ~~utilised~~***used*** in the national context;

(d) synergies between ***CAP interventions targeting young farmers and any other relevant*** measures contributing to generational renewal set out in the NRP Plan.

Article 16

Starter pack for young farmers

1. ~~The~~***Member States shall establish a*** Starter pack for young farmers ~~shall include a set of the following measures,~~ in line with the Strategy ~~on~~***for*** Generational Renewal in Agriculture referred to in Article 15~~;~~ ***of this Regulation.***

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1a. The Starter pack for young farmers shall include at least three of the following interventions:

(a) support for setting-up of young farmers in accordance with Article ~~14~~***14(1) of this Regulation***;

(b) degressive area-based income support for young farmers in accordance with Article 6 ***of this Regulation***;

~~(ba) investment support with higher aid intensity for young farmers;~~

(bb) cooperation interventions facilitating intergenerational succession with a view to transferring the holding of farmers who have reached the retirement age determined by national law and receive a retirement pension to a young or new farmer, in accordance with Article 74 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

(c) support for small farmers in accordance with Article 7 ~~targeting young farmers~~***of this Regulation***;

(d) investment support with a higher ~~aid intensity~~***support rate*** for young farmers ***in accordance with Article 13 of this Regulation and Article 35(4) second subparagraph of Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP]***;

(e) possibilities of financing investments implemented ~~by young farmers~~ through the financial instruments in accordance with Article 71 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

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(f) support for rural business start ups ***in accordance with Article 14 (2a)(ac) of this Regulation***;

(fa) support for farm household income diversification into non-agricultural activities in accordance with Article 14(2a)(a) of this Regulation;

(g) cooperation interventions facilitating access to innovation ~~through the projects of EIP-AGRI operational groups~~ in accordance with Article 19 of this Regulation and Article 74 of Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP];

(h) cooperation interventions facilitating intergenerational cooperation ~~including farm succession,~~ in accordance with Article 74 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

(i) support for farm relief services in accordance with Article 17 ***of this Regulation***;

(j) ~~access to advisory services and training programs tailored to young farmers' needs,~~***knowledge sharing actions*** in accordance with Article ~~20~~***19(1)(b) of this Regulation***.

~~2. Member States shall integrate in the design of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 links and synergies with other measures set out in their NRP Plans, in particular in respect to measures facilitating intergenerational succession and generational renewal, investments for rural business start-ups, or access to and use of financial instruments.~~

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3. In order to facilitate access to the interventions referred to in paragraph 1~~,~~ Member States shall ~~establish a single point~~***have one or more national or regional points*** of access ~~for young farmers which may provide inter alia~~***to all*** information on support opportunities and procedures ~~and facilitate the entry and the establishment in the agricultural sector~~***relevant to young farmers***, including ***information on*** submission of funding applications and guidance.

Article 17

Support for **farm relief services**

1**.** Member States may provide support for the farm relief services, ~~allowing~~***to replace active*** farmers ~~to take a~~***when they take*** leave for sickness, childbearing, care for children and other family members, holidays and similar ~~life events~~***cases***, as well as ***for*** participation in ~~trainings, as further specified~~***training. Member States shall specify the conditions for such support*** in their NRP Plans.

2. This support shall be limited to the ***costs of*** setting up ~~of~~ farm relief services and to ***the*** costs of wages***, including related administrative costs, for*** ~~of~~ the workers replacing the ~~farm holder~~***farmer*** during a limited period of time.

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Article 17a

[Article 74(3) NRP Regulation]

Specific provisions concerning CAP interventions on cooperation

1. Member States shall limit the support for setting-up of producer groups~~,~~ ***or*** producer organisations ~~or interbranch organisations refered~~***referred*** to in Article 74(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) […] NRP to 10% of the turnover of the group or organisation with a maximum- of EUR ~~100 000~~***200 000*** per year~~; that support shall be degressive and limited to the first five years following recognition or the start of joint activities intended to lead to recognition as determined by Member States in the Agriculture chapter of their NRP Plans.~~**.**

1a. Member States shall limit the support for setting-up of interbranch organisations referred to in Article 74(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) […] NRP to 10 % of the annual expenditure of the interbranch organisation, up to a maximum of EUR 200 000 per year.

1b. The support referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be degressive and limited to the first five years following recognition or following the start of joint activities intended to lead to recognition as specified by Member States in the Agriculture chapter of their NRP Plans.

Article 18

***Support for* LEADER**

1. Member States shall provide support ~~for~~***under*** LEADER to prepare and implement LEADER local development strategies under the conditions laid down in Article 76 ***and 77*** of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] and as further specified in their NRP Plans.

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2. Member States shall support LEADER at least in rural areas ***as defined by Member States in their NRP Plans. In addition, Member States shall take into account the need to support rural areas*** with specific disadvantages ~~defined~~***where such areas are determined*** by the Member States in ~~the NPR~~***their NRP*** Plans.

3. Member States shall provide support ~~through~~***under*** LEADER for projects ~~implemented by local action groups involving startups, value added capacity in transformation~~ ***such as rural business start-ups, on farm processing***, diversification of farm activities, including agrotourism, direct sale of agricultural products ~~and~~***,*** innovation ***and digitalisation***.

4. Support provided ~~from~~***under*** LEADER shall be focused on ~~rural development fields~~***projects*** with added value for ***rural communities,*** farmers ~~and~~***or*** forest holders, such as social, environmental, digital and economic ~~transformation~~***development*** of rural areas, ***promotion of gender equality and social inclusion,*** improvement of well-being of rural citizens~~,~~ ***and*** strengthening social capital.

Article 19

Support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

1. Member States shall provide support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture, ***and where relevant, may also provide support for*** forestry and rural areas under the conditions laid down in this Article. Member States shall provide support:

   (a) to ~~prepare and~~ implement the projects of the EIP-AGRI operational groups ~~as well as actions to ensure broader uptake of projects' results~~;

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(b) for ***knowledge sharing actions such as advice, training, skills development,*** actions to promote innovation~~, training and advice, skills development, advisory services and~~ ***or*** other forms of knowledge sharing and dissemination of information~~.~~

Member States shall be exempt from the obligation to provide support under paragraph 1 point (b) if they ~~that~~ demonstrate in the NRP Plan the existence of private or public systems which provide support for knowledge sharing actions.

1a. Member States may also provide support for:

(a) ***EIP-AGRI operational groups for the preparation of projects or actions to ensure broader uptake of their results;***

(b) ***the setting up of farm advisory services referred to in Article 20(3);***

(c) ***capacity building of advisors within farm advisory services referred to in Article 20(3).***

Support for ***farm*** advisory services ***referred to in points (b) and (c)*** shall only be granted for those advisory services that comply with Article ~~20(3)~~***20(4)***.

2. The aim of EIP-AGRI shall be to accelerate development and use of innovations by improving the exchange of knowledge and fostering synergies between policies, actors and instruments in agriculture ***and, where relevant***, forestry and rural areas. Results from its work shall be disseminated and multiplied through the AKIS.

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The EIP-AGRI shall:

(a) support cooperation projects for innovation through operational groups based on the 'interactive innovation model' referred to in paragraph ~~4~~***3***;

(b) link research and~~ farming and forestry~~ practice and inform the scientific community of the needs ~~of those practices~~***in agriculture and, where relevant, forestry and rural areas***;

(c) connect innovation actors and projects, particularly via the Union and national CAP networks;

(d) ~~promoting~~***promote*** the use of innovative solutions through dissemination of information and knowledge, including farmer-to-farmer exchanges ***where appropriate***.

3. The projects implemented by the EIP-AGRI operational groups shall be based on the 'interactive innovation model' that complies with the following principles:

(a) develop innovative solutions focusing on the specific needs of farmers ***and, where relevant forest***~~, forester~~ holders and rural actors***. The development should include an assessment of the potential for a scale up of those innovative solutions***;

(b) bring together partners with complementary knowledge such as academia, researchers and the farming community, and where relevant, actors of the food chain and ***other actors to*** ensure their active involvement in projects;

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(c) the projects are co-created and co-decided among the actors involved in the projects and implemented in a consultative manner~~, including ensuring the potential for scale up~~.

Member States shall ensure that the key results of the projects referred to in this paragraph are disseminated through practice-oriented channels ***of the AKIS***, including the national and Union CAP networks. The disseminated information shall include the objectives of the projects, participating partners, key thematic areas addressed, geographical location of the project, total budget, and the final outcome of the project, with focus on the practical innovative solutions developed.

4. Member States may grant support for projects of EIP-AGRI operational groups under the following conditions:

(a) support may only be granted on the basis of an approved project plan that is based on the principles referred to ***in*** paragraph 3;

(b) the operational group implementing the project shall involve at least two different actors and shall contribute to one or more CAP-related specific objectives set out in Article 3, point (d), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

Member States shall set objective criteria and transparent requirements for the content, the duration, the submission and approval of project plans to be drawn up by the EIP-AGRI operational groups.

Member States shall not provide support under this paragraph to projects involving research bodies only.

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~~5. Member States shall not provide support under this Article to knowledge sharing and innovation involving research bodies only.~~

Article 20

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation ~~systems~~*System* and farm advisory services

1. Each Member State shall ensure that farmers and***, where relevant,*** forest holders ***or other rural actors*** have access to innovation and ~~that~~ new knowledge ~~reaches them in a timely and effective manner~~, enabling them to deploy innovative and sustainable solutions effectively and profit from up-to-date knowledge in the agricultural sector.

2. To meet the requirement laid down in paragraph 1, each Member State shall ~~establish~~***describe*** in the NRP Plan how innovations and up-to-date knowledge reach farmers ***and where relevant forest holders or other rural actors***, in particular through the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (the AKIS). The AKIS ***description*** shall include:

   (a) arrangements to ensure effective knowledge flows and synergies between advisors, researchers, practitioners, national CAP networks and other relevant stakeholders;

   (b) actions to improve access ~~for farmers and forest holders~~ to impartial ***advice*** and qualified ~~advice~~***advisors, in accordance with paragraph 4***;

   (c) support for innovation as ~~a~~ part of the farm advisory services, ~~particularly support for the~~***in particular for*** EIP-AGRI operational groups referred to in Article 19 ~~including for the use of the 'interactive innovation model' referred to in Article 19(4)~~;

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(d) a plan to improve dissemination and demonstration of research outcomes and innovative and sustainable solutions ~~to farmers, forester holders and other end-users~~ at a large scale;

(e) interventions set out in the NRP Plan supporting AKIS operation, in particular those referred to in Article 19, and their complementarity and coherence with relevant national initiatives and other relevant measures set out in the NRP Plan;

(f) a system for provision of ~~farm advisory services~~***advice***, established in accordance with paragraph 3.

3. As part of the AKIS, Member States shall describe in the NRP Plans, and implement, a system for provision of ***advice ('the*** farm advisory services~~ to be established~~***'),*** to support access to knowledge and wider deployment and use of innovations. The farm advisory services shall cover ~~all~~ the following elements:

(a) advice~~ to farmers and forest holders~~ on sustainable and resilient management of land, farms and forests tailored to farm types and different production systems, as well as on the requirements for support set out in the NRP Plans, including farm stewardship, setting-up and transfers of holdings and start-ups; business management~~, access to social support, raising awareness about mental health issues and availability of the relevant services~~; and the use of innovations, data-driven solutions and digital tools;

(aa) information on the availability of social support, including mental health services;

(b) targeted advice for young ***farmers and new*** farmers, in particular as regards business management, access to finance, access to public support, access to knowledge and innovation.

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4. Member States shall ensure that farmers and***, where relevant, forest*** ~~forester~~ holders ***or other rural actors*** have direct access to advisers, such as by providing public databases of advisors. Member States shall ensure that the advice provided ~~to farmers and forest holders~~ is impartial, and that advisors are suitably qualified and free from conflict of interest.

Article 20a

[Article 38 NRP Regulation]

Crisis payments to farmers following natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events

1. Member States may provide crisis payments to farmers that are affected by natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events ***including those caused by animal and plant diseases***. Those payments shall aim at ensuring continuity of the agricultural activity of those farmers and shall be subject to the conditions set out in this Article and as further specified by the Member States.

2. Support under this Article shall be subject to the formal recognition by the competent authority of the Member State that a natural disaster, adverse climatic event or catastrophic event, ***including those caused by animal and plant diseases,*** as defined by the Member State, has occurred and that these ***disasters or*** events, or measures adopted in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 to eradicate or contain a plant disease or pest, or measures adopted to prevent or eradicate animal diseases listed in the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 or measures adopted regarding an emerging disease in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 259 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 have directly caused ~~a~~ damage resulting in ~~the~~ destruction ~~of at least~~***which exceeds*** 30 % of the average annual production of the farmer in the preceding three-year period or a three-year average based on the preceding five-year period, excluding the highest and the lowest entry.

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3. The losses shall be calculated either at holding level, at the level of the holding's activity in the sector concerned or in relation to the specific area ~~concerned~~***of a holding***.

4. Member States shall establish the applicable support rates for compensating the loss of production. Those rates ~~shall~~***may*** be higher for farmers who also implement interventions, or other preventive actions at farm level, to reduce the level of production and income risks for which support is granted. ***Where a Member State applies a higher support rate, they shall determine the interventions or other preventive actions at farm level based on which higher support rates apply.*** Indexes may be used for calculating the loss of production***, including for new or young farmers or where a farmer does not have a representative three-year reference period for the crop or sector concerned***.

5. When granting support under this Article, Member States shall ensure that overcompensation as a result of the combination of this support with other national or Union support instruments or private insurance schemes is avoided.

Chapter III

Support for intervention for Smaller Aeagean islands

Article 20b

[Article 42 NRP Regulation]

Scope, objectives and common requirements

1. This Chapter lays down specific types of intervention for agriculture to mitigate the difficulties caused by the insularity, small size and distance from markets of the smaller Aegean islands.

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2. For the purposes of this Regulation ‘the smaller Aegean islands’ means any islands in the Aegean Sea except the islands of Crete and Evia.

3. In addition to contributing to the specific objectives set out in Article 3, point (d), of ~~Regualtion~~***Regulation*** (EU) […] [NRP], the interventions referred to paragraph 1 shall contribute to the following objectives:

(a) guaranteed supply to the smaller Aegean islands of products essential for human consumption or for processing and as agricultural inputs by mitigating the additional costs incurred due to their extreme remoteness or insularity, without harming local production and the growth thereof;

(b) securing the long-term future and development of agricultural activities in the smaller Aegean islands, including the production, processing and sale of local crops and products, with a particular focus on food security and self-sufficiency, and maintaining and strengthening their competitiveness.

4. Greece may implement in smaller Aegean islands the interventions referred to in Article 5(1), except for those referred to in point (o) [outermost regions].

5. Farm stewardship referred to in Article 3 shall apply to beneficiaries receiving support for local agricultural products referred to in Article 20d [ex- Art 44 NRP - Support for local agricultural products].

6. However, beneficiaries of support for local agricultural products referred to in Article ***20d***~~XX~~ [ex-Art 44 NRP - Support for local agricultural products] receiving an annual payment that does not exceed EUR 3 000 shall be exempt from farm stewardship requirements referred to in Annex XI, parts A and C.

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Article 20c

[Article 43 NRP Regulation]

Specific supply arrangements

1. Specific supply arrangements shall be established for the agricultural products listed in Annex I to the TFEU which are essential in the smaller Aegean islands for human consumption, for the manufacture of other products or as agricultural inputs.

2. Greece shall establish in its Plan, at the geographical level which it deems most appropriate, a maximum volume of each agricultural product, from among the products listed in Annex I to the TFEU, to quantify the annual supply requirements for the smaller Aegean islands.

3. The maximum volume of agricultural products referred to in the first subparagraph shall comprise also the volumes of those products required by undertakings packaging and processing products intended for the local market, for consignment to the rest of the Union or for export to third countries as part of regional trade or within the context of traditional trade flows. The maximum volume of the products referred to in the first subparagraph shall be established taking into account in particular the quantities of those products established in the supply forecast balance sheets in the previous programming period.

4. Support shall be granted to supply the smaller Aegean islands with Union products to ensure special supply requirements established in accordance with paragraph 2 in terms of price and quality, while maintaining the Union’s share in the supplies of those products.

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5. No support shall be granted for the supply of products which have already benefited from the specific supply arrangements in another smaller Aegean islands.

6. Only products of sound, fair and marketable quality shall benefit from the specific supply arrangements.

7. Access to aid within the framework of the specific supply arrangements shall be granted on presentation of a certificate. Certificates shall be issued only to operators entered in a resgister held by the competent authorities Those certificates shall not be transferred.

8. In implementing the specific supply arrangements, Greece shall take account in particular of the need to ensure that existing local production is not destabilised nor obstructed in its development and of the requirement laid down in paragraph 5.

Article 20d

[Article 44 NRP Regulation]

Support for local agricultural products

1. Greece shall grant support for production, processing, marketing and transport of raw and processed agricultural products in the smaller Aegean islands.

2. Greece shall design the interventions so as to ensure the continuity and the development of local agricultural production in the smaller Aegean islands.

3. Greece shall provide for a fair distribution of payments. Greece may cap the amount of the support to be granted to a beneficiary in a given calendar year or use degressive payments.

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4. Greece may grant support for marketing of products outside of the region in which they are produced. That support shall not exceed 10 % of the value of the production marketed, delivered to a destination zone in a given calendar year.

5. When a Plan is amended in accordance with Article 24 [amendments to Plans], of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] beneficiaries affected by the exceptional natural disaster or the severe meteorological event may continue to benefit from support in the form of measures to support production, processing, marketing or ~~sale~~ transport provided for in paragraph 1 irrespective of their level of activity throughout the restoration period, but subject to a formal commitment to restore their agricultural production capacity.

Article 20e

[Article 45 NRP Regulation]

Controls and penalties

1. For the specific supply arrangements, Greece shall conduct verifications by means of administrative, physical and on-the-spot checks.

2. The administrative checks carried out on the import, entry, export and dispatch of agricultural products shall be exhaustive and shall involve cross-checks with the supporting documents. The physical checks carried out in smaller Aegean islands concerned on the import or entry of agricultural products shall involve a representative sample amounting to at least 5 % of the licences and certificates.

3. In the case of measures to support the local production, Greece shall conduct verifications by means of administrative and on-the-spot checks.

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4. Administrative checks shall be exhaustive and shall include cross checks with, inter alia, data from the integrated administration and control.

5. Aid applicants for specific supply arrangements and support the local production shall be selected to undergo on-the-spot checks by the competent authority on the basis of a risk analysis and the representativeness of the aid applications submitted, the competent authorities shall perform on-the-spot checks by sampling, for each action, at least 5 % of aid applications. The sample shall also represent at least 5 % of the amounts covered by the aid for each action.

In all appropriate cases, Greece shall make use of the Integrated Administration and Control System provided for in Article ~~XX~~***20l*** [IACS] and in accordance with Article 70 of Regulation EU […] [NRP].

Every on-the-spot check shall be the subject of an inspection report relating the details of the checks carried out.

Title III

Monitoring of agricultural resources

Article 20f

[Article 37 NRP Regulation]

Monitoring of agricultural resources

The Fund may support***, pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation (EU) …/… [NRP]*** actions taken by the Commission through remote-sensing applications used for the monitoring of agricultural resources, which shall aim to give the Commission the means to:

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(a) manage Union agricultural markets in a global context;

(b) ensure agri-economic and agri-environmental-climate monitoring of agricultural land use and agricultural land use change, including agro-forestry, and monitoring of the condition of soil, crops, water, biodiversity, agricultural landscapes and agricultural land so as to enable estimates to be made, ***including through econometric models and studies,*** in particular as regards yields and agricultural production and agricultural impacts associated with exceptional circumstances, and to enable the assessment of the resilience of agricultural systems and progress towards the achievement of the relevant ***EU economic, environmental and social sustainability goals, including in the context of the*** United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) share the access to the estimates referred to in point (b) in an international context, such as the initiatives coordinated by United Nations organisations, including the constitution of greenhouse gas inventories under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or other international agencies;

(d) contribute to specific measures increasing the transparency of world markets, taking account of Union objectives and commitments;

(e) ensure technological follow-up of the agri-meteorological system.

Where necessary, those actions shall be carried out in collaboration with the European Environment Agency, national laboratories and bodies or with the involvement of the private sector.

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Title IV

Specific provisions

Chapter I

Requirements concerning CAP interventions in the NRP Plans

Article 20g

[Article 36(1) NRP Regulation]

Requirements concerning CAP interventions in the NRP Plans

In addition to the elements referred to in Article 22 of Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP Regulation], Member States shall provide for each CAP intervention referred to in Article 5(1) set out in the chapter or ~~chapter~~***chapters*** related ~~for~~***to*** agriculture in the NRP Plans~~.~~***:***

(a) the type of intervention ~~on which it is based~~***, in accordance with Article 5 of this Regulation***, ***and*** the territorial scope ~~and the type of area targeted by~~***of*** the intervention;

(b) where applicable, sectors targeted ~~by the intervention~~ or group of farmers or other beneficiaries targeted ~~under the intervention,~~***, the type of area targeted and the*** CAP environment and climate priority area~~,~~ ***targeted*** in accordance with Article 4 of this Regulation;

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(c) an explanation of the relevant criteria of Annex 2 to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture as referred to in Article ~~20l~~***20i*** [WTO domestic support] and in Annex IIa [WTO annex] to this Regulation;

(d) a ***brief*** description of the design of the intervention, including the ***main*** eligibility conditions, ~~and, for agri-environmental and climate actions referred to in Article 10 of this Regulation~~***as appropriate to the nature and design of the intervention***;

(e) ~~a description of farming practices in accordance with paragraph 5 of~~***for agri-environmental and climate actions referred to in*** Article ~~3~~***10*** of this Regulation ***a selection of the relevant farming practice or practices***;

(f) in relation to the interventions in certain sectors referred to in Part II, Title I, Chapter IIa , section 3 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, justification for targeting the selected sectors and complementarity with other CAP interventions, and where relevant, with other measures set out in the NRP Plan.

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Chapter II

European and national CAP Networks

Article 20h

[Article 57 NRP Regulation]

European and national CAP Networks

1. Each Member State shall, at the latest 12 months after the approval ~~by the Commission~~ of the Plan, establish and ~~support~~***maintain*** a national network for CAP ('national CAP network') for the networking of organisations and administrations, advisors, researchers and other innovation actors, and other actors in the field of agriculture and rural development at national level. The national CAP networks shall build on the existing networking experience and practices in the Member States.

1a. ***Where necessary, due to the Member State's institutional, legal and financial framework, two or more regional CAP networks may be established for the purpose of paragraph 1. In this case, the combined objectives and tasks of these regional CAP networks as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 shall cover the entire territory of the Member State concerned.***

2. The Commission shall establish a European network for the Common Agricultural Policy ('European CAP network') to link national networks, organisations, and administrations in the field of agriculture and rural development at Union level.

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3. The objectives of the national and European CAP networks shall ~~be to~~***include at least the following***:

(a) involve stakeholders in the ~~design and~~ implementation ***and, where relevant, the design*** of the CAP interventions of the NRP Plan;

(b) support Member State administrations in implementing the CAP interventions;

(c) improve the quality of the ***implementation of CAP interventions and support for rural areas under the*** NRP Plans ~~and in particular their measures related to agriculture~~ and disseminate results;

(d) foster innovation, peer-to-peer learning, and knowledge-sharing;

(e) enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities;

(f) disseminate information on the CAP and funding opportunities;

(g) contribute to further development of the CAP.

4. To achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph ~~6~~***3***, the networks shall:

(a) collect, analyse, and disseminate information on good practices concerning the CAP as well as analysis on developments in agriculture and rural areas;

(b) build capacity for Member States' administrations and other actors involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ***CAP under the*** NRP Plans ~~concerning the CAP~~;

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(c) facilitate exchanges, peer-to-peer learning, and networking, including where relevant exchanges with networks in third countries;

(d) support the networking of funded cooperation projects, such as local action groups under Article ~~XX~~***18*** of this Regulation [**Support for** LEADER] ***and under Article ~~XX~~76 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP –CLLD]***, EIP-AGRI operational groups referred to in Article 19 of this Regulation and promote links to other Union-funded strategies ***and other relevant actors related to agriculture and rural development***.

5. The European CAP network and the national CAP networks shall collaborate and carry out joint activities in the achievement of the objectives referred to in paragraph 3. The European CAP network shall use a distinctive visual identity.

5a. The cost of establishing and maintaining the national CAP networks may be funded by Member States under technical assistance as referred to in Article ~~XX~~13 of Regulation (EU) [Technical assistance at the initiative of the Member State][NRP].

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Chapter III

Implementation of international commitments

Article 20i

[Article 40 NRP Regulation]

WTO domestic support

1. Member States shall design the CAP income support interventions on the basis of the types of intervention listed in Annex IIa [WTO Annex] to this Regulation, including the definitions and conditions laid down in Articles 2a and 2b [definitions and framework definitions], in such a way that they qualify under the criteria of Annex 2 to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture.

2. The support referred to in Article 5(1), points (a), (d), (f), (g), (o) and (p) of this Regulation shall qualify under the criteria of the paragraphs of Annex 2 to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture indicated in Annex IIa [WTO Annex] to this Regulation for those interventions. For other interventions, the paragraphs of Annex 2 to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture indicated in Annex IIa [WTO Annex] to this Regulation [WTO Annex] are indicative and those interventions may instead comply with a different paragraph of Annex 2 to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture if that is specified and explained in the NRP Plan.

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Article 20j

[Article 41 NRP Regulation]

Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on oilseeds

1. Where Member States provide for area-based interventions relevant for the Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Economic Community and the United States of America on oilseeds under GATT, the total of the support area based upon the planned outputs included in the Plans of the Member States concerned shall not exceed the maximum support area for the whole Union.

2. Each Member State that intends to grant the support referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall indicate the corresponding planned outputs in hectares in the NRP Plan.

3. If all planned outputs proposed by Member States in their NRP Plans exceed the maximum support area for the whole Union referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts fixing the indicative reference support area for each Member State calculated on the basis of each Member State's share of the average cultivation area in the Union during the five years preceding the submission of the Plan proposal. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 24(2) of this Regulation [committee procedure].

4. The Commission shall inform each of those Member States of the reduction coefficient. The Member States shall adjust the proposed planned outputs in the NRP Plans in accordance with the reduction coefficients.

5. If a Member State intends to increase the planned outputs referred to in paragraph 1 set out in the NRP Plan, it shall notify the Commission by means of a request to amend the NRP Plan.

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6. Where necessary to avoid that the maximum support area for the whole Union referred to in paragraph 1 is exceeded, the Commission shall set reduction coefficients or revise existing reduction coefficients for all Member States that exceeded their reference support area in their NRP Plans.

The Commission shall set or revise the reduction coefficients referred to in the first subparagraph by means of an implementing decision.

7. Member States shall exclude the cultivation of confectionery sunflower seed from any area-based intervention referred to in paragraph 1.

Chapter IV

Control and penalty systems and data governance under the CAP

Article 20k

[Article 62(2) to (5) and (8) NRP Regulation]

Control and penalty system for *the* farm stewardship

1. For the purposes of the obligation laid down in Article 62(1), first subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP], Member States ~~shall~~***may*** make use of their control and enforcement systems in the areas of climate and environment, public health, plant health and animal welfare~~, social and employment legislation, applicable labour~~ ~~**standards**~~ to ensure that beneficiaries of the support comply with the statutory management requirements listed in Annex I, ~~Parts A and B~~***Part A***.

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2. ~~The managing authority or paying agency~~***Member States*** shall ~~be notified where relevant at least once a year of cases of non-compliance where enforceable decisions in that respect have been made under the applicable control and enforcement systems referred to in paragraph 1. That notification shall include an assessment and grading of~~***set up a system to implement administrative penalties, including ensuring access to the necessary information to assess and grade*** the severity, extent, permanence or reoccurrence and intentionality of the non-compliance concerned. ***Where paragraph 1 is applied, the relevant competent authority shall exchange the data and control results of the non-compliances or of the enforceable decisions under national law, with the CAP paying agency at least once a year.***

3. The administrative penalties referred to in paragraph 4 shall only apply to non-compliance with the requirements ***and practices*** of the farm stewardship referred to in Article 3 where that non-compliance is the result of an act or omission directly attributable to the beneficiary concerned, and where one or both of the following conditions are met:

(a) the non-compliance is related to the agricultural activity of the beneficiary, as defined by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article ~~2a(2)~~***2b(3)*** of this Regulation [Article 4(22) and (23) NRP Regulation];

(b) the non-compliance concerns the holding as defined in Article 4(15) [definitions - holding], of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] or other areas managed by the beneficiary situated within the territory of the same Member State.

However, if the non-compliance concerns forest areas, the penalties referred to in paragraph 4 shall not be applied where no support is claimed for the area concerned.

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4. Member States shall ~~set up a system of~~***apply*** administrative penalties ~~applying~~ to beneficiaries referred to in paragraph 3 who do not comply, at any time in the calendar year concerned, with the requirements ***and practices*** of the farm stewardship.

The penalties shall consist of the reduction or exclusion of the total amount of the payments under measures listed in Article 5(1), points (a) to (f), and (o) and (p), to the extent they concern support for local agricultural products, granted or to be granted to the beneficiary concerned in respect of aid applications that the beneficiary has submitted or will submit in the course of the calendar year of the finding of the non-compliance. The penalties shall be calculated on the basis of the payments granted or to be granted in the calendar year in which the non-compliance occurred. However, where it is not possible to determine the calendar year in which the non-compliance occurred, the reductions or exclusions shall be calculated on the basis of the payments granted or to be granted in the calendar year of the finding of the non-compliance.

For the calculation of those penalties, account shall be taken of the severity, extent, permanence or reoccurrence and intentionality of the non-compliance determined. A penalty imposed pursuant to the national legislation implementing the legal acts listed in Annex I, part A, for the same act or omission of a farmer or other beneficiary ~~shall~~***may*** be taken into account in the calculation of penalties referred to in the first subparagraph.

The expenditure which has been reduced as a result of the application of a penalty shall be considered legal and regular. The reduction shall, as a general rule, be 3 % of the total amount of the payments. In the case of intentional non-compliance, the reduction shall be at least 15 % of the amount of those payments.

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4a. Member States shall ~~provide that no~~***not apply*** administrative ~~penalty shall be imposed if~~***penalties where***:

(a) The non-compliance is due to force majeure or exceptional circumstances;

(b) The non-compliance is due to an order from a public authority~~.~~***;***

(c) ***The non-compliance has no or only insignificant consequences for the achievement of the objective of the requirement or practice concerned.***

4b. ***Member States may decide not to apply an administrative penalty to a beneficiary per calendar year.***

(a) where the amount of the penalty does not exceed EUR 150; or

~~(a)~~***(b) where the amount of the penalty falls between EUR 150 and EUR 250, provided that the Member State concerned applies, under its national law, a threshold equal to or higher than that amount below which administrative penalties of a comparable nature are not applied.***

(c) where the amount of the penalty does not exceed EUR 20 per intervention or payment.

However, the beneficiary shall be informed about the finding of the non-compliance and the obligation to take remedial action for the future.

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4c. ***Member States may retain 25 % of the amounts resulting from the reductions and exclusions referred to in this Article.***

5. In order to ensure a level playing field among Member States and the effectiveness, proportionality and dissuasive effect of the penalties referred to in paragraph 4, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 23 supplementing this Regulation with detailed rules on the application and calculation of the penalties***, including deviations from the penalty rates referred to in paragraph 4***.

Article 20l

[Article 70(4) to (10) NRP Regulation]

Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS)

1. Member States shall annually assess the quality of the elements of the integrated system referred to in paragraph 3, points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 70 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] , in accordance with the methodology set up at Union level.

Where the assessment reveals deficiencies in the elements of the integrated system, Member States shall adopt appropriate remedial actions or, failing that, shall be requested by the Commission to set up a roadmap detailing the timeline for implementing the outstanding remedial actions.

An assessment report and, where appropriate, the remedial actions and the timetable for their implementation shall be submitted to the Commission by 15 ~~February~~***March*** following the calendar year concerned.

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The assessment report shall not form a basis for suspension of payments or calculation of financial corrections under Article 67 or 68 respectively, of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

2. The Commission shall supply the satellite data, required for the agriculture monitoring system, free of charge to the authorities competent for the agriculture monitoring system or to suppliers of services authorised by those authorities to represent them. For the purpose of the quality assessment of the integrated system referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall provide them, free of charge, the necessary Very High Resolution imagery. The Commission shall remain the owner of the satellite data and imagery.

3. Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Member States for the implementation and application of the integrated system Member States ~~shall~~***may*** establish ~~the~~***a*** European land monitoring system~~. It shall~~***, to*** provide information to farmers to support sustainable management of their holdings~~. Furthermore, it shall provide~~ data for CAP policy development and monitoring, and promote sharing of farm sustainability data.

4. ***Where applicable,*** the European land monitoring system shall comprise ~~at least~~ the data related to the elements of the integrated system referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 70 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP]**,** and~~, where applicable,~~ ***may include*** data shared by farmers with public authorities in accordance with Article ~~10~~***21 of this Regulation***. The Member States may provide additional services to enhance the European land monitoring system with other sources of information to the benefit of the farmers.

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4a. Member States shall ~~annually~~ carry out administrative checks on the aid application and payment claims ~~to verify legality and regularity in accordance with the control and penalty system that they have set up referred to in~~ ***for the purpose of Article 58(2)(a) of*** ~~70(4)(f)f~~ Regulation (EU)…(NRP). Those checks shall be supplemented by on-the-spot checks, which may be executed remotely with the use of technology. However, Member States **a** may choose not to carry out on the spot checks where the eligibility conditions ~~of measures~~ are monitored under the agriculture monitoring system referred to in point (a) of this Article. [Transferred from Art. 70(3)(f) NRP on 4 June 2026]

5. Where necessary to ensure that the integrated system provided for in Article 70 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] and in this Article is implemented in an efficient, coherent and non-discriminatory way which protects the financial interests of the Union, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 23 ***of this Regulation***, supplementing this Regulation with:

(a) rules on the methodology set up at Union level for the annual quality assessment of the elements of the integrated system, referred to in paragraph (3), points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 70 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

(b) rules on ***the structure and functioning of the Agriculture Monitoring System (AMS), Geo-Spatial and animal Application system (GSA) and*** the Land Parcel Identification System ***(***LPIS***)***, referred to in paragraph 3, point**s (a), (b) and** (c) of Article 70 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

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6. The Commission may adopt implementing acts laying down ***uniform*** rules on:

(a) the form ~~and content~~ of, and arrangements for transmitting or making available to the Commission of:

(I) the assessment report referred to in paragraph (1);

(II) the remedial actions ~~provided by Member States~~***referred to in paragraph (1)***;

(b) basic ***technical*** features of~~, and rules on the~~:

(I) Agriculture Monitoring System (~~AGMS~~***AMS***);

(II) ~~geo-spatial~~***Geo-Spatial*** and animal-based Application system (GSA);

(III) Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS);

(IV) the European land monitoring system.

7. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 24 [committee procedure, examination procedure].

Article 20m

Controls of the criterion that the area is at the farmer's disposal

For the purpose of targeting controls on the criterion that the area is at the farmer's disposal in accordance with Article 2b(5), Member States shall carry out checks in the following cases:

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(a) applications for support are submitted for areas not declared in the preceding 2 years, which are assessed on the basis of risk analysis;

(b) applications for support are submitted for the same area by multiple applicants in the same year, except when the area is farmed in common.

In all other cases, Member States may decide that the area is deemed to be at the farmer's disposal, unless the competent authority is otherwise informed that the criterion is not fulfilled.

Article 21

Authority in charge of data governance under the CAP

1. Each Member State shall designate one authority responsible for taking or coordinating actions to ***gradually*** achieve and maintain national and***, where appropriate,*** cross-border interoperability between information systems ~~used~~***identified by the Member States to be relevant*** for the implementation, administration, monitoring and evaluation of the CAP for the benefit of farmers and other CAP beneficiaries. For the purposes of this Article, interoperability means the ability of information systems to interact with each other by sharing data by means of electronic communication.

2. The designated authority shall have in particular the following tasks:

   (a) drawing up and submitting to the Commission a Roadmap at the level of the Member State to achieve and maintain interoperability (hereinafter the 'Roadmap') and ~~follow up of~~***interacting with the*** Commission ~~observations~~ on ***the content of*** the Roadmap;~~–~~

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(b) coordination of the implementation, or, as decided by the Member State, implementation of the Roadmap in an efficient, effective and timely way~~.~~ ***;***

(ba) consider, where relevant, Union-level standards for cyber security, data protection and interoperability.

The Member States shall notify the Commission of the designation of the authority at the latest ~~by~~***on*** [OPOCE: ~~[within~~ three months from the entry into force of this Regulation].

3. The Roadmap referred to in paragraph 2 shall cover:

(a) identification of needs to achieve and maintain interoperability as referred to in paragraph 1, and design of measures to address them as well as ***a*** timeframe ~~with milestones and targets~~ for their implementation;

(b) identification of possible synergies with other Union and national interoperability initiatives.

To the extent possible, Member States shall base their assessment of needs and the design of the measures on the principle that data is collected only once and re-used.

For the elements referred to in the first subparagraph, point (a), the Member State shall consider in particular the need to establish a single digital identity framework and shall consider alignment with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014, including as regards the European Digital Identity Wallet for natural and legal persons.

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4. ***Each Member State shall submit the Roadmap to the Commission by 16 May 2029. Thereafter,*** the Member States shall submit to the Commission by 16 ~~December of each calendar year an annual~~***May 2032 a first*** report ***and a final one by 16 May 2035*** on the implementation of the Roadmap, assessing the progress of the implementation of the steps and measures and the timeframe set out in the Roadmap.

Where necessary, Member States shall submit to the Commission amendments of the ~~Roadmaps~~***Roadmap*** together with ***each*** ~~the annual reports~~***report***.

~~Member States shall submit the first annual report to the Commission by 16 December 2029.~~

5. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 23, ~~which~~***to supplement paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 of this Article with rules that*** are necessary to ensure that interoperability and seamless data exchange between information systems used for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CAP are implemented in an efficient, coherent, effective and timely manner~~, supplementing this Article with rules where the implementation of the Roadmap referred to in paragraph 2 so requires as well as rules on interoperability measures referred to in paragraph 3, point (b).~~**.**

6. The Commission may adopt implementing acts laying down rules on:~~–~~

(a) form ~~and content~~ of the Roadmap and ~~annual~~***the*** report;

(b) arrangements for transmitting or making available to the Commission the ~~Roadmaps and annual reports.~~ ***Roadmap and report.***

These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 24.

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Title V

Competition provisions

Article 21a

[Article 84 NRP Regulation]

Rules applying to undertakings

~~Where~~ Support ~~is~~ granted through ~~CAP~~ interventions referred to in Article 5(1) of this Regulation to forms of cooperation between undertakings~~, it~~ may ***only*** be granted ~~only~~ to such forms of cooperation which comply with the competition rules provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

Article 21b

[Article 85 NRP Regulation]

State aid

1. Save as otherwise provided for in this Article, Articles 107, 108 and 109 TFEU shall apply to support under this Regulation and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 in relation to types of interventions laid down in Part II, Title I, Chapter IIa of that Regulation.

2. Articles 107, 108 and 109 TFEU shall not apply to support paid by Member States pursuant to and in accordance with this Regulation***, Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, and Regulation (EU) ... [NRP Regulation]*** ~~and to the national contribution to eligible costs provided by Member States~~ for the CAP interventions referred to in Article 5(1)~~, points (d) to (f) and (h) to (s)~~ of this Regulation or to the additional national financing provided for CAP interventions referred to in Article 5(1)~~,~~ points (d) to (f) and (h) to (s) of ~~that~~***this*** Regulation ***as well as for the transitional national aid referred to in Article 21c of this Regulation***, falling within the scope of Article 42 TFEU.

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3. Support provided by Member States referred to in paragraph 1 in relation to operations falling within the scope of Article 42 TFEU that is intended to provide additional financing for interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (d)~~, (e),~~ ***to*** (f) and (h) to (s) of this Regulation for which Union support is granted at any time during the Plan period may only be made if it complies with this Regulation~~,~~ ***and*** Regulation (EU) …[NRP Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and is set out in the NRP Plan ***as approved in accordance with Articles 23 and 24 of Regulation (EU) ...[NRP Regulation].***

4. Member States shall not provide additional national financing for interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (a)~~, (b),~~ ***to*** (c) and (g) of this Regulation.

5. For the agricultural products ~~covered by Annex I to the~~***, with the exception of fishery products, falling within the scope of Article 42*** TFEU, to which Articles 107, 108 and 109 thereof apply, the Commission may authorise, in accordance with Article 108 TFEU, operating aid in the sectors producing, processing and marketing those products, with a view to alleviating the specific constraints on farming in the smaller Aegean islands as a result of their isolation, insularity, small size and extreme remoteness.

~~Member States may grant additional financing for the implementation of interventions in the smaller Aegean islands pursuant to this Regulation. In such cases, the Member States shall notify the additional financing to the Commission and the Commission may approve it in accordance with Regulation (EU) No … [NRP Regulation] as part of the Plans. Thus, aid notified shall be regarded as notified within the meaning of the first sentence of Article 108(3) TFEU.~~

~~6. By way of derogation from Article 211 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1184/2006, Articles 107, 108 and 109 TFEU shall not apply to payments to support local agricultural production and specific supply arrangements made by Member States in accordance with this Regulation.~~

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Article 21c

Transitional national aid

1. Member States having granted transitional national aid in the period 2023-2027 in accordance with Article 147 of Regulation (EU) No 2115/2021 may continue to grant transitional national aid to farmers.

2. The conditions for granting transitional national aid shall be identical to those referred to in Article l47(2) of Regulation (EU) No 2115/2021.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, where the conditions for granting transitional national aid referred to in the first subparagraph related to a reference period, Member States may decide to modify the reference period to no later than year 2025.

3. The total amount of transitional national aid that may be granted per sector shall be limited to the following percentage of the level of payments in each of the sector-specific financial envelopes authorised by the Commission in accordance with Article 132(7) or Article 133a(5) of Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 [10]in 2013:

- *25 % in 2028,*
- *20 % in 2029,*

10 **Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of 19 January 2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1290/2005, (EC) No 247/2006, (EC) No 378/2007 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003; OJ L 30, 31.1.2009, pp. 16–99**

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- ***15 % in 2030,***
- ***10 % in 203l,***
- ***5 % in 2032,***
- ***0 % in 2033,***
- ***0 % in 2034.***

For Cyprus, the percentage shall be calculated on the basis of the sector-specific financial envelopes set out in Annex XVIIa to Regulation (EC) No 73/2009.

Article 21d

Annual reporting on transitional national aid

By 15 February 2030 and 15 February of each subsequent year until 2035, the Member States that grant the transitional national aid laid down in Article 21c shall provide the Commission with the following information on the implementation of that aid in the previous financial year for each relevant sector:

(a) the number of beneficiaries;

(b) the total amount of transitional national aid granted; and

(c) the number of hectares, animals or other units for which that aid has been granted.

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Title VI

Final provisions

Chapter I

Measures to resolve specific problems

Article 22

Measures to resolve specific problems

1. In order to resolve specific problems, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts which are both necessary and justifiable in an emergency. Such implementing acts may derogate from provisions of this Regulation to the extent and for such a period as strictly necessary. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 24(2).

2. On duly justified imperative grounds of urgency, and in order to resolve specific problems as referred to in paragraph 1 while ensuring the continuity of the CAP interventions set out in the NRP Plan in case of extraordinary circumstances, the Commission shall adopt immediately applicable implementing acts in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 24(3).

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3. Measures adopted pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall remain in force for a period not exceeding 12 months. ~~If after this period,~~
If the specific problems referred to in those paragraphs persist ***or are likely to persist after this period***, ***those measures may be renewed for another period not exceeding 12 months.*** The Commission may, in order to establish a permanent solution, submit an appropriate legislative proposal.

4. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of any measure adopted under paragraph 1 or 2 within two working days of its adoption.

Chapter II

Delegated and implementing acts

Article 23

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article***s 20k(5), 20l(5) and*** ~~21(6)~~***21(5)*** shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of seven years from [OPOCE: [date of entry into force of this Regulation]]. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the seven-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

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3. The delegation of power referred to in Article***s 20k(5), 20l(5) and*** ~~21(6)~~***21(5)*** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.

5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. ~~***A d***~~***D***elegated act***s*** adopted pursuant to Article***s 20k(5), 20l(5) and*** ~~21(6)~~***21(5)*** shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

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Article 24

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee called ‘Common Agricultural Policy Committee’. The Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011[11] of the European Parliament and of the Council and shall have the task of issuing opinions on any implementing acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011, in conjunction with Article 5 thereof, shall apply.

Chapter III

Final provisions

Article 25

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

[11] Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission’s exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj).

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It shall apply from [OPOCE: [date of application of Regulation (EU) […] establishing the ~~National and Regional Partnership Fund~~***European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security*** for the period 2028 to 2034].

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament	*For the Council*
The President	*The President*

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ANNEX I

Farm stewardship requirements referred to in Article 3

Part *A*

Rules on farm stewardship

Areas	Main issue	Statutory Management Requirements	
Climate and environment	Water	SMR 1	Directive 2000/60/EC: Article 11(3), point (e) and (h), as regards mandatory requirements to control diffuse sources of pollution by phosphates
		SMR 2	Council Directive 91/676/EEC[12]: Articles 4 and 5
	Biodiversity and landscape (protection and quality)	SMR 3	Directive 2009/147/EC: Article 3(1), Article 3(2), point (b), and Article 4(1), (2) and (4)
		SMR 4	Directive 92/43/EEC: Article 6(1) and (2)

[12] Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (OJ L 375, 31.12.1991, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1991/676/oj).

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Public health, and plant health	Food safety	SMR 5	Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council[13] Articles 14 and 15, Article 17(1)[14] — Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 470/2009 and the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 37/2010, — Regulation (EC) No 852/2004: Article 4(1) and Annex I part A (II 4 (g, h, j), 5 (f, h), 6; III 8 (a, b, d, e), 9 (a, c)), — Regulation (EC) No 853/2004: Article 3(1), Annex III Section IX Chapter 1 (I-1 b, c, d, e; I-2 a (i, ii, iii), b (i, ii), c; I-3; I-4; I-5; II-A 1, 2, 3, 4; II-B 1(a, d), 2, 4 (a, b)), Annex III Section X Chapter 1(1), — Regulation (EC) No 183/2005: Article 5(1), (5) and (6), Annex I, part A (I-4 e, g; II-2 a, b, e), and Annex III (under the heading 'FEEDING', point 1 entitled 'Storage', first and last sentences, and point 2 entitled 'Distribution', third sentence), and — Regulation (EC) No 396/2005: Article 18. and Articles 18, 19 and 20

[13] Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/178/oj).

[14] As implemented in particular by:

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		SMR 6	Council Directive 96/22/EC[15]: Article 3, points (a), (b), (d) and (e), and Articles 4, 5 and 7
	Plant protection products	SMR 7	Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council[16]: Article 55, first and second sentence
		SMR 8	Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[17]: Article 5(2) and Article 8(1) to (5), Article 12 with regard to restrictions on the use of pesticides in protected areas defined on the basis of Directive 2000/60/EC and Natura 2000 legislation Article 13(1) and (3) on handling and storage of pesticides and disposal of remnants
Animal welfare	Animal welfare	SMR 9	Council Directive 2008/119/EC[18]: Articles 3 and 4

15 Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of ß-agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC (OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1996/22/oj).

16 Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj).

17 Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 71, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/128/oj).

18 Council Directive 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves (OJ L 10, 15.1.2009, p. 7, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/119/oj).

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		SMR 10	Council Directive 2008/120/EC[19]: Articles 3 and 4
		SMR 11	Council Directive 98/58/EC[20]: Article 4

[19] Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs (OJ L 47, 18.2.2009, p. 5, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/120/oj).

[20] Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes (OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, p. 23, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1998/58/oj).

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Part *B*

Rules on social conditionality

Areas	Main issue	Statutory Management Requirements	
Employment of workers	Working conditions	SMR 12	Directive (EU) 2019/1152 of the European Parliament and of the Council[21]: Articles 3 to 6, 8, 10 and 13
	Occupational safety and health	SMR 13	Council Directive 89/391/EEC[22] : Articles 5 to 12
		SMR 14	Directive 2009/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[23]: Articles 3 to 9

[21] Directive (EU) 2019/1152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union (OJ L 186, 11.7.2019, p. 105, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/1152/oj).

[22] Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work (OJ L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1989/391/oj).

[23] Directive 2009/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work (second individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (OJ L 260, 3.10.2009, p. 5, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/104/oj).

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Part *C*

Rules on protective practices

General objectives set out in Article 3(4)	Specific objectives of the ***Pp***rotective ***Pp***ractices ***(PPs),*** ***(including where relevant, minimum practices)***	
(a) Protection of ~~carbon-rich~~ ***carbon rich*** soils ~~landscape features and permanent grasslands on agricultural area~~ ~~***biodiversity sensitive areas***~~	**PP 1**	Protection of ~~carbon-rich soils~~**,** ~~including protection of wetlands, and peatlands~~ ***peatlands and wetlands*** ~~and landscape features~~
(aa) Protection of biodiversity and landscape	**PP 2**	~~***Retention of landscape features***~~ ***Protection of landscape features, including as a minimum, their retention.***
	PP 3	Protection of ***designated*** environmentally sensitive permanent grasslands in Natura 2000 areas.

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(b) Protection of soil ~~against erosion, preservation of the soil potential, maintenance of soil organic matter including soil rotation or diversification, and protection against burning of stubble on arable land~~ ***health and resilience***	**PP 4**	Protection of soil against erosion ~~subject to~~ **with** site specific conditions.
	PP 5	Preservation of the soil ~~Potential~~ ***health***, including ***as a minimum,***~~:~~ ~~P~~***p***rotection of soils in periods that are most sensitive ~~Crop rotation or diversification~~
	PP 6	Maintenance of soil organic matter through crop residue management, including ***as a minimum, a*** ban on burning stubble on arable land, ***except for plant health reasons.***
	PP7	***Preservation of soil potential through crop rotation or diversification***
(c) Protection of water courses ~~and groundwater against pollution and runoff~~	**PP 8**	Protection of water courses against pollution and runoff, including ***as a minimum,*** ~~through~~ ***the*** establishment of buffer strips along water courses.

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ANNEX II

Rules concerning the calculation of animal equivalents for the purpose of Coupled income support referred to in Article 11

Member States shall use the following coefficients to convert animals to animal equivalents for the purpose of the coupled income support interventions referred to in Article 11(1).

Species	**Age/category**	**Coefficient**
Bovine animals	below six months	0,4
–	from six months to two years	0,6
–	over two years	1,0
Equine animals	over six months	1,0
Sheep and goats	–	0,15
Pigs	breeding sows > 50kg	0,5
–	other pigs	0,3
Poultry	–	–
–	laying hens	0,014
–	other poultry	0,03

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ANNEX IIa

[Annex XVII NRP Regulation]

WTO domestic support

WTO domestic support pursuant to Article ~~X~~ **20i** *of this Regulation*

Type of intervention	**Reference in this Regulation, Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013**	**Paragraph of Annex 2 to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture ('Green Box')**
Degressive area-based income support	Article 6 of this Regulation	5
Payment for small farmers	Article 7 of this Regulation	5
Payment for natural or other area-specific constraints	Article 8 of this Regulation	13
Support for disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements	Article 9 of this Regulation	12
Support for agri environmental and climate actions	Article 10 of this Regulation	***5,*** 11, 12

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Support for investments for farmers and forest holders, ***and undertakings which process or market agricultural products***	Article 13 of this Regulation	8, 11
Support for setting-up of young farmers, ~~***and***~~ new farmers***, rural business start-ups, farm household income diversification and business development of small farms***	Article 14 of this Regulation	2, 5, 11
Support for farm relief services	Article 17 of this Regulation	2
Support for the EU School scheme	Articles 27 and 28 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	4
Support for interventions in certain sectors	Article 31, –points (b), (c), (d), (e), (h), (i), (m) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	2

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	Article 31, point (a) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	2, 11
	Article 31, points (f), (g), (q) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	2, 11, 12
	Article 31, point (n) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	8, 11, 12
Support for interventions in outermost regions	Article 5(1), point (o) of this Regulation/Title VI of Regulation (EU) […] NRP, with the exception of support for bananas)	13
Support for interventions in Smaller Aegean Islands	Article 20b of this Regulation	13
Support for territorial development and local cooperation	Article 74 of Regulation (EU) […] NRP	2

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Support for LEADER	Article 18 of this Regulation	2
Support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas	Article 19 of this Regulation	2
Crisis payments to farmers following natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events	Article 20a of this Regulation	8

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