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Environmental Protection in Terms of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU

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Brief history of the CAP

- **The Early Years (1960s)** – price support, productivity and market stabilisation;
- **The Crisis Years (1970s / 1980s)** - over production, exploding expenditure, international frictions, income and budget stabilization;
- **The 1992 Reform** – price cuts and compensatory payments, surplus reduction, income and budget stabilisation;
- **Agenda 2000** – deepening the reform process, rural development;
- **CAP Reform 2003** – market orientation, decoupling, **cross – compliance**, consumer concerns, environment, enlargement;
- **CAP Health Check 2008** – reinforcing 2003 Reform, dairy quotas;
- **CAP Reform Post – 2013** – **greening**, targeting, redistribution, end of production constrains, food chain, research and innovation.

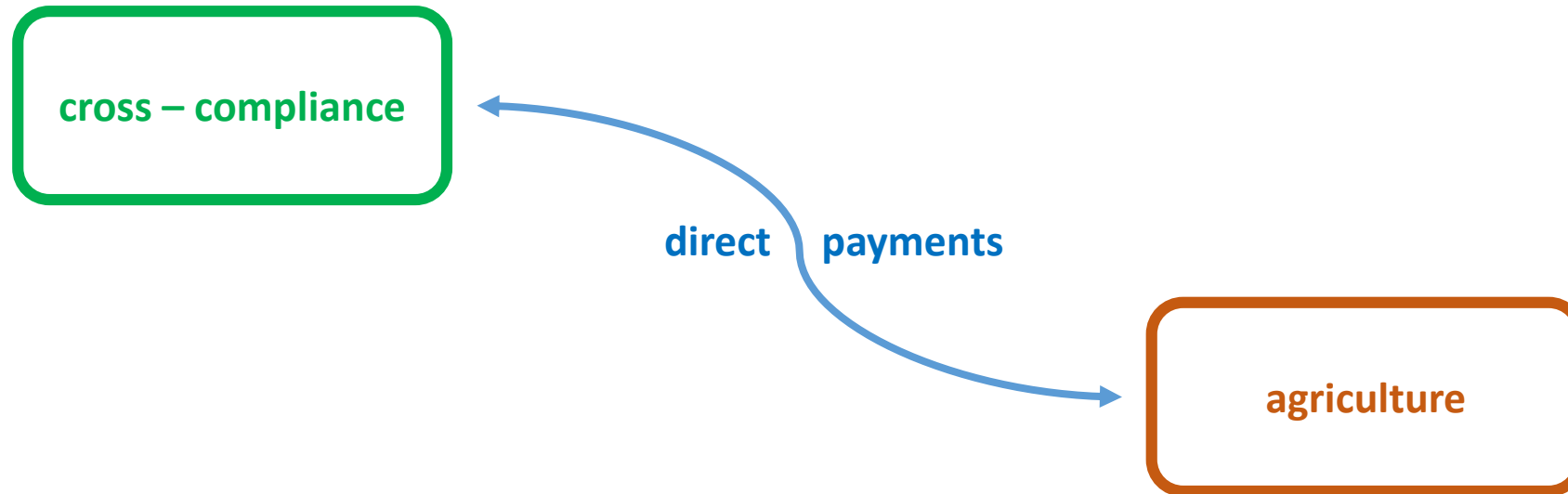


CAP Reform 2003 – a Fischler reform

- a radical rebuilding of the CAP;
- important innovations:
 - decoupling of direct payments from the production;
 - introduction of the Single Farm Payment Scheme;
 - Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS) in new member states (2004 enlargement);
 - cross – compliance (voluntary before);
 - RDP, FAS (from 1.1.2007), etc.

Cross – compliance

- agriculture vs. environment, health of public, animals and plants, animal diseases and animal welfare + GAEC



Cross – compliance

- links direct payments to farmers to their respect of environmental and other requirements set at EU and national levels;
- all farmers receiving direct payments (even when they are not yet part of the SPS) will be subject to cross-compliance;
- failure by farmers to respect these conditions can result in deductions from, or complete cancellation of direct payments;
- **Legislation:** Council Regulation (EC) No **1782/2003** of 29 September 2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and amending Regulations (EEC) No 2019/93, (EC) No 1452/2001, (EC) No 1453/2001, (EC) No 1454/2001, (EC) 1868/94, (EC) No 1251/1999, (EC) No 1254/1999, (EC) No 1673/2000, (EEC) No 2358/71 and (EC) No 2529/2001



Cross – compliance – basic components

- **Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions**
 - member states define **GAEC** for their agricultural circumstances (at national or regional level), taking into account the specific characteristics of the areas concerned, including soil and climatic conditions, existing farming systems, land use, crop rotation, farming practices, and farm structures;



Cross – compliance – basic components

- **Statutory Management Requirements** – 19 European standards (regulations and directives) within the 5 basic areas:
 1. ***Environment,***
 2. ***Public and animal health; Identification and registration of animals,***
 3. ***Public, animal and plant health,***
 4. ***Notification of diseases,***
 5. ***Animal welfare***

Environment

- conservation of wild birds;
- protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances;
- protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture;
- protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources;
- conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.



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Public and animal health; Identification and registration of animals

- eartags, holding registers and passports in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals;
- labelling of beef and beef products;
- identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals.

Public, animal and plant health

- placing of plant protection products on the market;
- prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta-agonists;
- general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety;
- rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Notification of diseases

- measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease;
- measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease;
- specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue.

Animal welfare

- minimum standards for the protection of calves;
- minimum standards for the protection of pigs;
- protection of animals kept for farming purposes.

CAP post – 2013

- Current environmental aspects of the CAP – introduction of several instruments to promote environmental sustainability and combat climate change – **GREENING**:

cross – compliance (enhanced)

+

Green direct payment

+

measures that are beneficial for the environment and climate change

Green direct payment

- paid to farmers on the condition that they undertake practices that are beneficial to the climate and to the environment;
- obligation to allocate 30% of the Rural Development budget to projects and measures that are beneficial for the environment and climate change (including voluntary agri-environment-climate measures);
- basic practices:
 - maintaining permanent grassland,
 - crop diversification (or rotation),
 - having 5% (later 7%) of their land as ecological focus area (such as landscape features, buffer strips, afforested areas, fallow land, etc.).

Green direct payment

- Crop diversification:
 - Cultivation of **minimum 2 different crops** when the applicant declares **10 to 30** hectares of arable land,
 - Cultivation of **minimum 3 different crops** when the applicant declares **more than 30** hectares of arable land,
- crops:
 - cereals, oil crops, sugar beet, root crops, etc.
 - Brassicaceae – turnip, cauliflowers, radish, horseradish...
 - Solanaceae – pepper, tomato...
 - Cucurbitaceae – pumpkin, melon, cucumber...

Green direct payment

Permanent grasslands – no ploughing when the grassland is involved in the NATURA 2000, e.g. Special Protection Areas – SPAs (protected bird areas – 41 in Slovakia)

- marked in the LPIS



Cross – compliance post – 2013

- **Areas:**

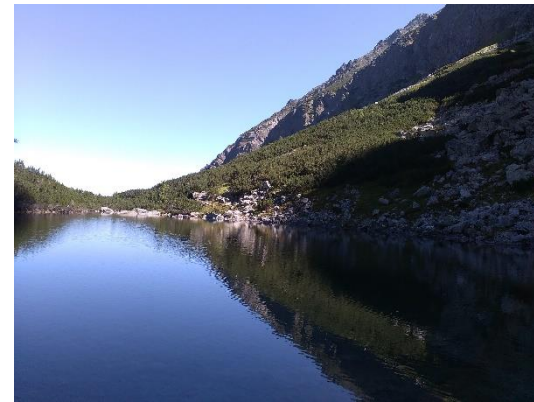
1. Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land,
2. Public health, animal health and plant health,
3. Animal welfare



Cross – compliance post – 2013

- Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – main issues:

- **water,**



- **soil and carbon stock,**



- **biodiversity,**



- **landscape, minimum level of maintenance**



Cross – compliance post – 2013

- Public health, animal health and plant health – main issues:
 - **food safety,**
 - **identification and registration of animals,**
 - **animal diseases,**
 - **plant protection products**

Cross – compliance post – 2013

- Animal welfare – main issue: Animal welfare

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – WATER

- SMR 1 – Protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources – requirements:
 - to respect requirements on storage capacities for individual types of agricultural fertilisers,
 - to respect the requirement on placing a temporary open storage on agricultural land with maximum 3° of sloping rate, excluding production blocks with high level of limitation,
 - to respect the nine months' time period for storing the livestock manure in the open storage since the first application

Cross – compliance post – 2013

- to respect the 10 – metre buffer zone from the water course or water reservoir and from the border line of the 1 level groundwater protection zone,
- to respect the obligation to keep the primary records on crop rotation, agro – techniques and fertilization,
- to respect the obligation to create and observe the Programme of using nitrogen – containing fertilisers,
- to respect the ban on fertilisation from 15 November to 15 February; early spring fertilisation of winter crops is allowed from 1 February with maximum capacity of 60 kg of nitrogen per hectare when there is no limitation by soil and climate conditions

Cross – compliance post – 2013

- not to apply nitrogen – containing fertilisers on land:
 - a) frozen deeper than 8 cm;
 - b) covered with more than 5 cm of snow cover;
 - c) covered with consistent layer of water,
- to respect the requirement on application of maximum allowed amount of 170 kg of total nitrogen per hectare per year within agricultural fertilisers

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – WATER

- GAEC 1 – Establishment of buffer strips along water courses – requirement:

- to respect the ban on using nitrogen – containing artificial and organic fertilisers in up to 10 meters buffer zones along water courses and exposed ground waters on the land parcel registered in the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) (farming is allowed without Nitrogen fertilisers).

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – WATER

- GAEC 1 – Establishment of buffer strips along water courses – requirement:
 - to respect the ban on using nitrogen – containing artificial and organic fertilisers in up to 10 meters buffer zones along water courses and exposed ground waters on the land parcel registered in the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) (farming is allowed without Nitrogen fertilisers);
 - ground waters – rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds...

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – WATER

- GAEC 2 – Regulating water use – requirement:
 - permit for using surface and ground waters for irrigation purposes or the contract with state irrigation system administration.;
 - authorities: Ministry of Environment,
regional environmental offices,
Environmental Inspection of the SR,
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – WATER

- GAEC 3 – Protection of ground water against pollution – requirements:
 - to keep in the company a documentation on acquisition and handling with dangerous substances (registration of purchase, consumption and application of **pesticides, organic and artificial fertilisers**, purchase of **fuel**, internal registration of **silage**);
 - to prevent direct discharge of dangerous substances into ground waters;
 - to prevent indirect discharge of dangerous substances into ground waters.

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – SOIL AND CARBON STOCK

GAEC 4 – Minimum soil cover – requirement:

- to ensure between 1 November – 1 March minimum 40% of plant cover by winter crops, perennial fodder plants or intercrops, or by stubble (of cereals, oil crops and maise) on arable land with 12° of average sloping rate;
- reason – to protect the most vulnerable soils (with sloping rate higher than 12°) from the soil erosion.

Cross – compliance post – 2013

perennial fodder plants :

Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*)

Grass

Mix

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – SOIL AND CARBON STOCK

GAEC 5 – Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions to limit erosion – requirement:

- to follow suitable measures of land management to prevent from gully erosion with erosion gully exceeding 20 cm;
- prevention – like in GAEC 4

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – SOIL AND CARBON STOCK

GAEC 6 – Maintenance of soil organic matter level through appropriate practices including ban on burning arable stubble – requirements:

- to respect the ban on cultivation identical root crop (sugar beet, fodder beet, salad beetroot, ware potatoes and fodder potatoes) on the same place during two consecutive years,
- to respect the ban on burning stubbles and plant residues after the harvest of grain, legumes and oil crops,
- to respect the ban on burning grasslands during the whole year.

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – BIODIVERSITY

SMR 2 – Conservation of wild birds – requirements:

- to respect the ban on damaging and removing nests,
- to respect the ban on disturbing of birds by agro – technique measures during the period of breeding and rearing (from 1 March to 30 September),

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – BIODIVERSITY

SMR 2 – Conservation of wild birds – requirements:

- to respect the ban on capturing, injuring and killing the adult bird and any of its life stages and damaging its eggs.

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – BIODIVERSITY

SMR 3 – Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna – requirements:

- to respect the ban on removing and disturbing landscape features on the arable land, such as isolated trees, trees in line, trees in group, field margins and terraces,
- to respect the ban on intervention into the habitat of Community interest through which the habitat might be damaged or destroyed.

Cross – compliance post – 2013

Environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land – LANDSCAPE, MINIMUM LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE

GAEC 7 – Retention of landscape features, including a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season – requirements:

- to respect the ban on removing and disturbing landscape features on the arable land, such as isolated trees, trees in line, trees in group, field margins and terraces,
- to respect the ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season (1 March – 30 September).

Thanks for your attention