

# **CAP REFORMS AND SIMPLIFICATION:**

***A SUCCES STORY?***

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# Structure

- Simplification in The Netherlands
- CAP reform and simplification

# Simplification in The Netherlands

- The 70's: start simplification legislation
- Motive?
  - intransparancy
  - conflicting legislation
  - impracticability
  - obstruction of the development of markets

# Simplification in The Netherlands

Various simplification operations:

- improving process lawmaking:
  - research to the effects of legislation on companies and environment
  - reflection on practicability/enforcement
- reduction of administrative burdens
- 2005: white paper ‘A practical legal system’

# Simplification in The Netherlands

- Today people still complain about the burden of rules (‘perception of burdens’)
- Simplification is a difficult process!

# Simplification in The Netherlands

## Lessons:

- Simplification means more than just removing some rules
- For succes: start at the beginning of the lawmaking process
- Internalize concept of better regulation in policymaking
- Role of the government: not one of direct intervention, but of indirect inducement

# Simplification in The Netherlands

- The importance of commitment
- Be realistic!
  - many players in the field
  - different interests
  - political choices

# CAP reform and simplification

A lot of work has already been done:

- two-year program ‘Updating and simplifying the Community acquis’
- simplification state aid rules
- 2003 CAP Reform
- Single Area Payment Scheme

# CAP reform and simplification

The Netherlands share the Commission's ambition to achieve a more cost-effective CAP by:

e.g.

- reduce transaction costs for farmers, operators and administrators;
- avoid unnecessary burdens on public administration.

# CAP reform and simplification

- An important notion!

Simplification must operate within a given policy and regulatory framework

Example: CAP is about financial support for farmers. It needs profound control of the spending of tax payer's money.

# CAP reform and simplification

Such a given framework (field of tension)  
requires smart solutions in an early stage of  
the process of policy making

And

Requires fine-tuning of policymaking between  
different directorates-general with  
overlapping areas of policy

# CAP reform and simplification

Two important aspects:

1. Provisions in commission regulations should allow Member-States to make use of existing administration and control systems;

E.g: “Competent control authority” in articles 44 and 45 of 796/2004

# CAP reform and simplification

2. There should be a founded balance between required control-efforts and the financial risk for EOGFL

A solid foundation enlarges the support for the required control-efforts and its costs

E.g: Increasing ‘on the spot controls’ (Article 26 in 796/2004)

# Conclusions

- Simplification needs to become internalized in policymaking from an early stage
- Simplification should be a constant priority
- Simplification requires regular consultation between different directorates-general
- Explore other instruments of lawmaking (generally formulated duties of care, provisions setting out a particular target instead of provisions setting out the technical measures)

Simplification is a shared responsibility!