



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



Simplification and administrative burden reduction in the CAP

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High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens



Context

- Ambitious simplification and administrative burden reduction approach since 2005
- Launched and actively endorsed by Commissioner Fischer Boel
- In constructive and close cooperation with DG ENTR and SecGen.



Simplification: 2 categories

- **Technical Simplification Revision:**

- legal framework
- administrative procedures
- management mechanisms



without changing the underlying policies

- **Political Simplification Improvements:**

- agricultural support
- rural development policy instruments



Policy development with simplification implications



CAP simplification and burden reduction

As CAP provides financial support it is different from a pure regulatory policy.

Margins of manoeuvre:

- policy objectives
- protection of EU financial interests (controls)



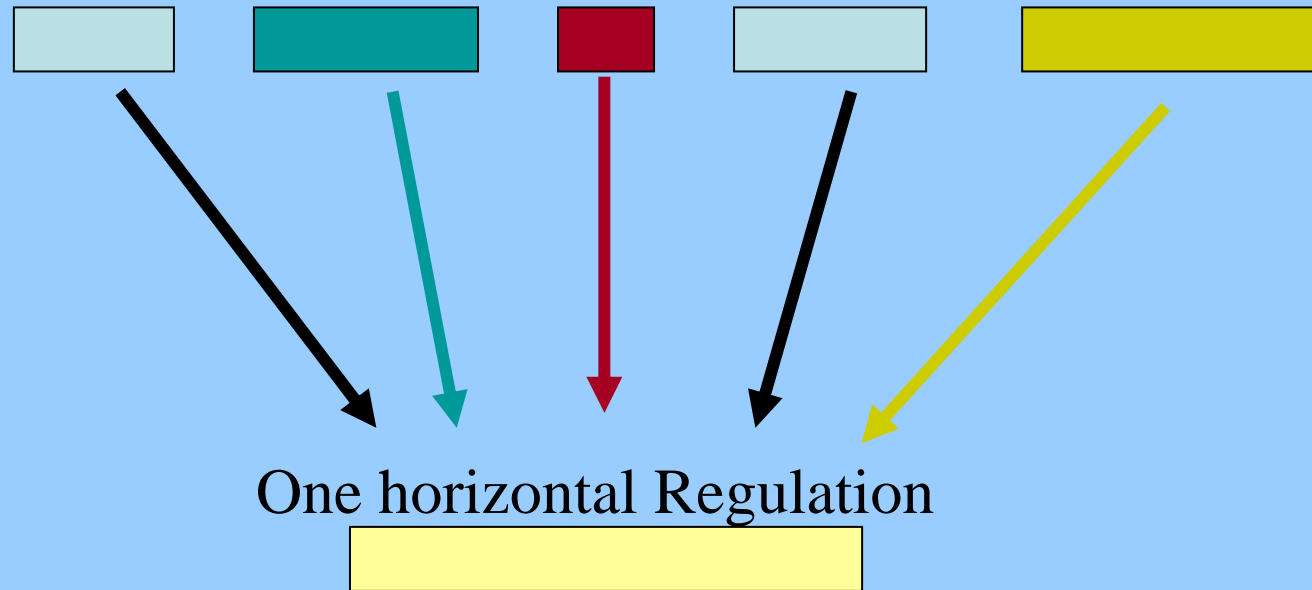
Technical Actions

- Adoption of single CMO 2007
- *Rolling* Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy Action Plan
- Study assessing administrative burden to farmers in 2007
- Frequent interaction with Member States and Stakeholders



Single Common Market Organisation

21 CMOs + 24 additional Council acts





Single Common Market Organisation

Simplification effects (1)

- Reduce the number of legal acts and provisions governing the CAP:
 - 78 Council acts being repealed
 - Around 230 instead of around 920 Articles
 - Around 200 pages in the OJ instead of some 500 pages



Single Common Market Organisation

Simplification effects (2)

- Makes the CAP rules more accessible, after a learning phase:
 - for those working with legal texts; in particular farming advisors, food-industry, farmers' associations and unions etc.
- Streamline CAP instruments and measures
- Increase transparency of the CAP's legal framework



Simplification Action Plan

- Rolling
- 20 projects in 2006
- Now 47 projects
- Implemented: 38



Simplification Action Plan

- Cross compliance:
de minimis rule, minor infringements
- Licences:
import licence requirement reduced from
around 500 to 65 products
- Proof of arrival:
use of electronic tracking and tracing



Study assessing administrative burden on farms

- One-off costs
- More decoupling
- Abolition set-aside
- Implementation MS: pre-printed forms, IT-solutions
- Burden cross-compliance is minimal



Frequent interaction with Member States and Stakeholders

- Expert group Member States: 7
(next: November)
- Advisory group stakeholders: 3
(next: December)
- Conference (2006) and joint seminar (2007)
- Around 200 suggestions for simplification reviewed



Policy simplification

- In the past years, policy simplification has been established in reforms, such as:
- Sugar
- Fruit and Vegetables
- Wine





Policy simplification: practical examples

- Inclusion of fruit and vegetables into the single payment scheme (end of “stickers” on entitlements)
- Phasing out of planting rights wine sector
- Marketing standards Fruit and Vegetables: from 36 to 10



Action programme for reducing administrative burden:

- Import and export licences
- Beef labelling
- Direct payments





Action programme for reducing administrative burden:

Import and export licences

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1291/2000 replaced by a codified version, Commission Regulation (EC) No 376/2008
- Initial figures show that burden level is relatively low; system operates efficiently.
- Substantial reduction of administrative burden to operators in June by reducing obligation from 500 to 65.



Action programme for reducing administrative burden:

Beef labelling:

- Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- *Consumer information:* Beef labelling was key element for restoring consumer confidence in beef and beef products
- Awaiting final figures of measurement and burden reduction suggestions.



Action programme for reducing administrative burden:

Direct Payments:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003
- Since 2005, technical adjustments have been made to improve functioning
- 2008 Health Check Proposal



Health Check

Main questions

- How to simplify the Single Payment Scheme (SPS)?
- How to adjust to new market opportunities?
- How to respond to new challenges?



Health Check, burden reduction: decoupling

- Currently, parallel measures exist for decoupled and partially coupled support
- HC: no more parallelism; less administrative burden on farmers and MS administrations.



Health Check, burden reduction: set aside

- Until 2007 farmers were obliged to set 10% of their land aside. Suspended for 2008.
- HC: no more set-aside; farmers may make full use of all of their land and MS authorities don't have to control.



Health Check, burden reduction: transfer of entitlements

- Currently, transfer only if 80% of the entitlements has been activated
- HC: Efficient use of entitlements by farmer, no more monitoring by MS of the activation rate of entitlements.



Health Check, burden reduction: SAPS extension

- Currently: new Member States switch to Single Payment Scheme by 2011
- HC: Postpone to 2013, avoiding burdensome introduction of SPS, both for farmers and new Member States authorities.



Outlook

- Implementing rules for Direct Payments following Health Check
- Green Paper on agricultural product quality, simplification of:
 - marketing standards
 - geographical indications systems
- Progress report 2009



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Thank you very much
for your attention



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25