



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate Sustainability and income support
Director

Brussels,
AGRI.DDG2/D2/D3/D(2018)5063210

SUMMARY RECORD

Joint Meeting of the Committee for Direct Payments and Rural Development Committee

30 August 2018

Chair: Mr Michael BJORNAA, AGRI.D3

Delegations present: All Member States were present.

(1) NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THE INTEGRATED ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM:

a) Presentation of the draft technical guidance on carrying out checks by monitoring

The legal provisions to introduce “Checks By Monitoring” (CBM) are now in place (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU)2018/746, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014, adopted on 18 May). In parallel to the development of the legal provisions, the Commission has been developing in the past months:

- a Questions & Answers document to assist with the legal interpretation of these new provisions and to ensure a common understanding of the checks by monitoring process, and
- a Common Technical Specification guidance for the implementation of CBM, developed in collaboration with 10 Member States (MS).

Following discussions at the previous two Committee meetings and comments received from MS, the Commission has now finalised the Questions & Answers document, which will soon be made available on Circa BC. The Commission would like to thank all Member States for their comments and input.

The Common Technical Specification guidance was presented by the representative of the JRC. The Commission acknowledged the efforts of the JRC colleagues as well as the members of the technical group for their role to date in developing the framework and tools to implement this new system. Member States provided initial comments and were encouraged to send written comments to AGRI D3 (AGRI-D3@ec.europa.eu) by 15/09/2018. In particular, it was queried whether others technologies than Sentinels could be used for CBM.

The Commission confirmed that in accordance with Article 40a (1a) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU)2018/746 (amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014) other technologies could be used for CBM if they provide data of equivalent value compared to the data from Copernicus sentinel satellite.

Finally, the Commission have been providing targeted support to “early adopters” of monitoring by way of bilateral missions. The Commission reiterated its availability for such bilateral missions and/or to respond to other queries MS may have on CBM, particularly those MS/regions planning to phase-in monitoring from next year. Interested MS/regions should contact AGRI D3 (AGRI-D3@ec.europa.eu) as soon as possible (if not already in contact).

b) Information on EGNOS and EGNOS helpdesk

In a previous Committee, some MS representatives raised queries about EGNOS, a system to augment GNSS data. The Spanish delegation subsequently forwarded a note and a copy of last year’s MARS presentation about GALILEO and EGNOS to AGRI D3, for sharing with other MS. The Commission thanked the Spanish delegation for sending this information, which highlights that EGNOS is a free service augmenting positioning technology, enhancing GNSS/GPS accuracy, and makes reference to several useful links relating to:

- Official information about this Service
- Performance standards or technology expectations
- Helpdesk service
- [See EGNOS website for details and services: https://egnos-user-support.essp-sas.eu/new_egnos_ops/]

Spain also made reference to the presentation on GALILEO and EGNOS at the last MARS Conference in 2017. All presentations are available from the MARS website at <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/conference/23rd-mars-conference>.

The note and links mentioned will be placed on Circa BC after the meeting.

(2) ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR IACS SCHEMES/ MEASURES:

Presentation of a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising Belgium, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom to derogate in respect of claim year 2018 from the third subparagraph of Article 75(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the level of advance payments for direct payments and area-related and animal-related rural development measures

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision, which aims at allowing increasing advance payments of direct payments up to 70% and advance payments of rural development measures up to 85% in concerned Member States, as an emergency measure to alleviate financial difficulties and cash-flow problems for farmers caused by adverse climatic conditions in the first half of 2018. Member States made a number of comments in particular:

- whether advance payments of direct payments up to 75% (instead of 70%) could be allowed;

- whether payments could be made earlier, i.e. just after the completion of administrative checks and before the finalisation of on-the-spot checks.

The Commission took note of the two proposals and will assess what can be done at this stage, taking into account the tight timeframe for adoption.

Member States were also concerned of the timing of the adoption of this legal act as they would need a decision as soon as possible in order to organise in time at national level. Recalling that Commission inter-service consultation on the draft had not yet been completed, the Commission indicated that the vote should take place mid-September for an adoption beginning of October. To this end, the Commission considers organising a vote through a written consultation with a very short deadline so that adoption could take place as soon as possible.

(Responsible Unit for points 1 & 2: D3 – Implementation support and IACS)

(3) GREENING DEROGATIONS:

Presentation of draft COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of XXX authorising derogations from Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and from Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 as regards the implementation of certain conditions relating to the greening payment for claim year 2018 in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Sweden

The Commission representative introduced the draft derogation aimed at alleviating certain problems encountered by livestock and arable farmers in the concerned Member States due to the difficult weather conditions in 2018. The Commission representative explained that the draft derogation complemented a number of existing flexibilities based on the current legislation that could already help Member States tackle some of these difficulties. Member States made a number of comments in particular concerning the scope and the extent of the draft derogation. A few Member States requested inclusion in the draft of some of its aspects.

Commission representatives took note of the suggestions recalling as well that Commission inter-service consultation on the draft had not yet been completed. Indicative timing for the voting was also presented with the intention to proceed as soon as possible given the urgency of the matter.

(Responsible unit: D2 – Greening, cross-compliance and POSEI)

(4) AOB

a) Notification of forthcoming event

The Commission would like MS to take note of an important and timely event: A **Copernicus Ecosystem Workshop**, which will take place on the 9th & 10th of October 2018 in Brussels (Docks Dome).

It will feature presentations and discussions about the evolution of Copernicus and its many applications, with a mixture of practical and informative sessions, providing an

excellent opportunity for knowledge exchange and a networking opportunity for all those involved in or planning to take advantage of these innovative technologies.

One of the main **focus areas** for the event will be “**Land & Agricultural Applications**”, hence it is of significant interest to the members of this joint Committee, in the context of modernisation of IACS checks for both the current and future CAP.

A broad array of Copernicus actors are expected to attend including; representatives of the IT, Big Data industries, education/research and end-users from a range of industries. The workshop is mainly targeted at the level of senior business development executives, project managers and team leaders.

The Commission strongly encourages delegations and relevant colleagues back home to examine this agenda and consider participating at the workshop. Agenda and Registration for the event is available via the Copernicus.eu website: <http://copernicus.eu/ecosystem-workshop>.

b) Study on administrative burdens arising from the CAP

The Commission had presented in previous committees the study “administrative burdens arising from the CAP”. The subcontractor has now produced some preliminary findings. He intends to validate them through a questionnaire that will be sent to all Paying Agencies in September. The Commission would appreciate if MS could pay special attention to this questionnaire as final results of the study will depend of their feedback.

< *e-signed* >
Pierre BASCOU
Director

List of participants– Summary Record
**Joint Meeting of the Committee for Direct Payments
and Rural Development Committee**
30 August 2018

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	Service public de Wallonie	1
	Vlaamse Overheid, Departement Landbouw en Visserij	2
BG	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	State Agricultural Intervention Fund	1
DK	Landbrugsstyrelsen	2
DE	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	2
	Observer of the Länder	1
EE	ARIB	1
	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	2
EL	OPEKEPE	2
ES	Fega	2
FR	Ministère de l'Agriculture	2
	Représentation Permanente	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Paying Agency	2
IT	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali	3
	AGEA	1
CY	CAPO	1
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Paying Agency	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Payment Agency	1
	Permanent Representation	1
LU	Paying Agency	2
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	State Treasury	1

MT	Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency	1
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1
	Paying Agency	1
AT	Bundesministerium für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus	1
	Agrarmarkt Austria	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	2
	ARMA	1
PT	GPP	1
	IFAP	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
SI	Paying Agency	1
SK	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	1
	Paying Agency	1
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	2
UK	Defra	1
<i>TOTAL</i>		57