

FACTSHEET

Specific support



European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development

Specific support

Article 68 of Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009¹ allows all Member States to use up to 10% of their national ceiling established for the single payment scheme (SPS) for granting direct payments to support specific sectors for an expanded range of purposes as follows:

1. Protecting or enhancing the environment,
2. Improving the quality of agricultural products,
3. Improving the marketing of agricultural products,
4. Practicing enhanced animal welfare standards,
5. Specific agricultural activities entailing additional agro-environment benefits,
6. Payments for disadvantages affecting farmers in specific sectors (dairy, beef and veal, sheep and goat and rice) in economically or environmentally sensitive areas as well as for economically vulnerable types of farming,
7. Top-ups to existing SPS payment entitlements in areas where land abandonment is a threat,
8. Support for risk assurance in the form of contributions to crop, animal and plant insurance premia,
9. Support by way of mutual funds for animal and plant diseases and environmental incidents.

Up to 10% of the national ceiling can be used for the measures mentioned under points 5, 7 and 8 above but, the measure under point 5 shall be approved by the Commission to check its compliance with world trade rules. However, resources that can be used for any "coupled" support are limited to 3,5% of the national ceilings, which is the case for measures mentioned under points 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 above.

Member States shall take the decision to implement specific support either by 1 August 2009, 2010 or 2011 and may review their decision by 1 August 2011 for 2012.

¹ OJ L 30 of 31.1.2009, p. 16.

The specific support is funded by making a reduction of payment entitlements, of some payments or using the funds available in the national reserve. Member States are also allowed to use an amount calculated by the Commission on the basis of unused funds in the financial year 2008. In the new Member States applying the single area payment scheme (SAPS), the specific support is funded by means of a reduction of the related national financial envelope.

Member States shall lay down eligibility criteria in accordance with objective criteria, ensuring equal treatment and avoiding market and competition distortions. They shall ensure consistency with other support measures (under other Community or national schemes) and avoid any "double funding" of the same operation under various support schemes. Specific support shall not compensate for the respect of mandatory obligations. Member States shall ensure that the measures they implement are verifiable and controllable.

Detailed rules for the implementation of specific support are laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1120/2009 .

Legal References

Basic Act: Regulation (EC) No 73/2009.

Regulation (EC) No 1120/2009 concerns the implementing rules of the Single Payment Scheme including "Article 68" specific support.

Regulation (EC) No 1121/2009 concerns support schemes other than the Single Payment Scheme.

Regulation (EC) No 1122/2009 concerns Cross Compliance, modulation and IACS