



EU farmers and agri-cooperatives' views on Gold plating

Pekka Pesonen – Secretary General
High level expert group on monitoring simplification - 21 /06/ 2016

Simplification of CAP and gold plating

- EU farmers and their cooperatives welcome Commissioner Hogan's initiative on simplification of the CAP;
- MS set up their own set of administrative CAP procedures, and, quite often, they add unnecessary requirements;
- It is estimated that **32%** of administrative burdens are indeed the result of some Member States' actions that go beyond what is required by EU legislation;

Simplification of CAP and gold plating

- Reduce red tape and financial losses for farmers;
- Common standards could lead to a decrease in red tape;
- EU farmers are very support dependent. More than half of farming income comes from direct support (I + II pillars) -> EU agricultural budget fundamental: during the current 2014-2020 period will be cut in real terms **by 15%**.

Gold plating - Different stages of the programme

- Programme elaboration stage, in the early phases of design of measures
- In the implementation stage involving the processing of applications, and selection of projects
- During payment and control stages.

Rural development policy and gold plating

Some of the main concerns

- Transparency – to be able to compare at EU level
- Level playing field – single market, prevent distortions

Examples from practice

Danish examples

- Implementation of various EU directives
 - Nitrate, WFD, Habitats, etc
 - Costs for Danish agriculture: € 400-600 million
- Benchmarking cross compliance in DK compared to other MS
- Standardized cost

Examples from practice

UK examples

- England – Agri-environment-climate scheme
 - Its requirements go much further than the regulation

- Wales
 - Business plan for the organic scheme - adds burden for the farmer and potentially acts as a disincentive to uptake.

How to tackle gold-plating?

Some proposals:

- **Capacity building**
- **Coordination and cooperation between all actors involved**
 - Exchange of best practices between MS
 - Focus on concrete examples and measures
- **CAP scoreboard**

Promoting a sustainable agriculture and forestry for a sustainable future!

