



## Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Reviews of the greening scheme
3. Main outcomes of the reviews
  - 3.1 Implementation data
  - 3.2 Conclusions of 2017 report on EFA
4. Amendment of Delegated Act
5. Changes introduced in context of Omnibus
6. Conclusions

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## The CAP and its 2013 reform: a new policy framework for a more sustainable European agriculture

- 2013 reform fits into move towards more sustainable farming and had as objectives:
  - to adapt agricultural production systems to socio-economic, environmental and territorial challenges and
  - to ensure the long-term sustainability and potential of EU agriculture by safeguarding the natural resources on which agricultural production depends
- Biggest change: new architecture with green direct payment → 30% of aid tied to farmers observing 3 measures:
  - Permanent grassland maintenance (ESPG + ratio) for carbon storage,
  - Crop diversification for soil quality,
  - 5% Ecological Focus Area for biodiversity

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## Reviews of greening scheme

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## Reviews of greening scheme

### (1) Greening review after one year in 2016

- The review responded to the Commission's commitment on EFA in April 2014 to review the greening after one year (impact on level playing field, production potential and administrative burden).
- This review was part of CAP simplification agenda as undertaken by Commissioner Hogan

### (2) 2017 EFA report

- The report fulfils the obligation set in greening legislation (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013) to present by end of March 2017, a report on EFA, accompanied where appropriate by a proposal to increase the EFA percentage from 5 to 7 per cent
- A report from the Commission was adopted on 29 March 2017.

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## Context of the Omnibus as regards Greening

- Building on the Commissioner commitment as regards simplification, further measures have been included in the **Omnibus Regulation published by the European Commission on 16/10/2016.**
- All four of the basic CAP Regulations** – Direct Payments, Rural Development, CMO and Horizontal Regulation are concerned by Commission proposal.
- Main changes aim to ease the burden for both farmers and national authorities. Commission did not propose anything about greening.
- Main discussions took part during SCA and Trilogues from 05 September to 12 October 2017. An agreement has been obtained on 12 October 2017.

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## Main outcomes of the reviews

### Implementation data

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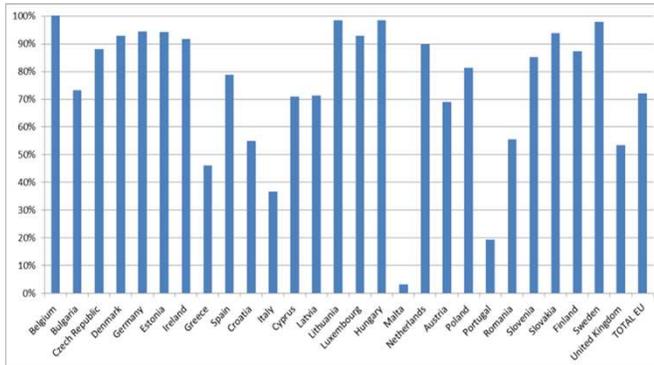
### Greening: high area coverage (NB: AECM 26%)

Indicator	2015	2016
Farmers subject to greening	35 %	37 %
Agricultural areas subject to greening	75 %	77 %
Arable land subject to crop diversification	75 %	76 %
Ratio of permanent grassland (PG / total agricultural area)	30 %	30 %
Arable land subject to EFA	70 %	69 %
EFA areas before weighting factor	13 %	15 %
EFA areas after weighting factor	10 %	10 %

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## Greening coverage differs per MS



Share of hectares of total utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered by greening

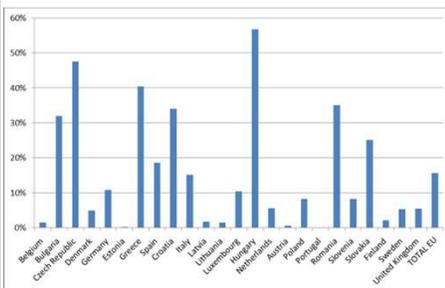
Total agricultural area: 110 million ha → on average 75 % of Eurostat UAA covered

Number of farmers: 35 % of direct payment beneficiaries covered

Lower percentages may be found due to farms outside the direct payment system (11 % of UAA), exempted farms (e.g. Organic farms)



## Permanent grassland covered per MS



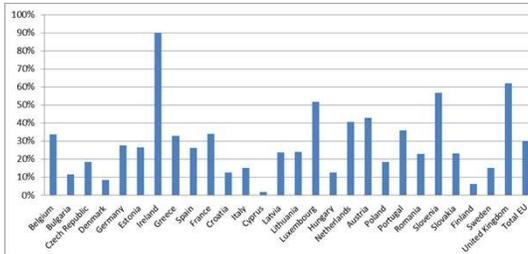
### Environmentally sensitive permanent grassland (ESPG)

Declared ESPG (in and outside Natura 2000) compared to permanent grassland under PG ratio: on average 16%

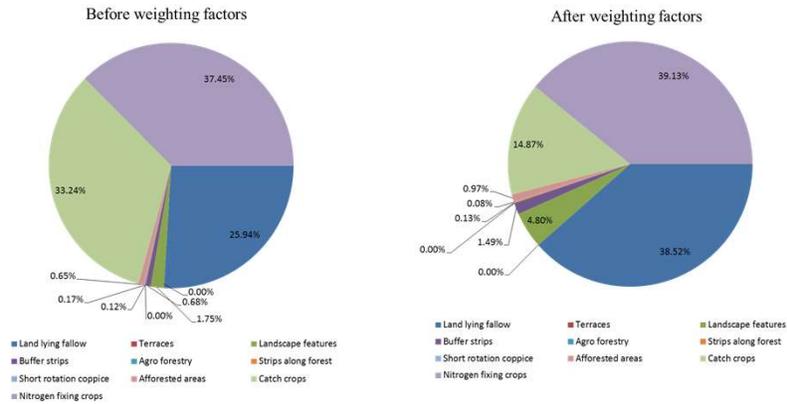
Designated ESPG in Natura 2000: 75 % of total PG in Natura 2000

### Maintenance of permanent grassland (PG ratio)

PG 30 % of the total agricultural area  
 IE and UK (Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales): around 90 %  
 CY, FI, DK and MT: less than 10 %

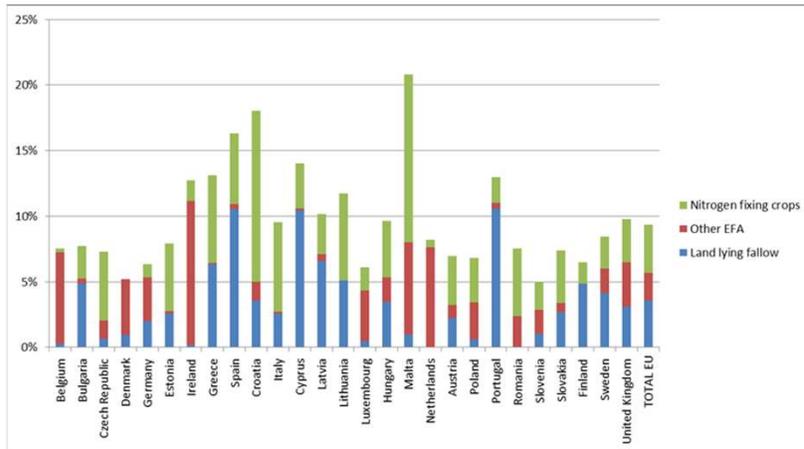


## Composition of EFA obligation per EFA type: high share of productive areas



LLF – CC – NFC: 92% on total EFA after WF

## EFA: share of N-fixing crops compared to 5% objective per MS



## Main outcomes of the reviews

### Conclusions of the 2017 report on EFA

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### Conclusions of 2017 report on EFA

- EFAs do provide benefits:

- Biodiversity



- Ecosystem services (pollination, pest and disease control, chemical condition of freshwater, soil erosion)



- However: the **benefits depend** on the **type of EFA or EFA composition** as well as **management requirement**

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## Conclusions of 2017 report on EFA

- Benefits linked to **types of EFA**
  - The **highest potential is associated with landscape features** (more than 50% of EFAs) followed by **land lying fallow** (more than 70%) as regards biodiversity and ecosystem services.
  - In contrast, lowest results are associated with EFAs where catch crops are predominant (more than 70%).
- Benefits linked to **management requirements**:
  - type of soil cover for land lying fallow, different mixtures of crops for catch crops;
  - cutting regimes, retention periods and the **use of chemical inputs**;
  - the diversity of vegetation for landscape features.

## Conclusions of 2017 report on EFA

- Since farmers are already doing more than the 5% required the Commission **does not see a reason to increase EFA from 5% to 7%**
- But greater environmental benefits would come from **shifts in farmers' choice of EFA type** that should be encouraged

## Change from Delegated Act

## Amendments to Delegated act: link to review

- Resulting of the review exercise, the Commission has put forward In response to this key priorities, the review is accompanied by a set of 14 concrete measures (changes to delegated act).
- New delegated act has been adopted in June 2017 after EP and Council scrutiny.
  - Extension of scrutiny period by 2 months by COMAGRI on 21 March 2017
  - EP Resolution to be voted by COMAGRI on 30 May (and in case of objection final decision in Strasbourg plenary session mid-June)



## Amendments to Delegated act

- Landscape features and strips (e.g. buffer strips, strips along forest):
  - Merging of certain strips (buffer strips and field margins) and streamline associated conditions (min and max width: 1 to 20 m + no production requirements)
  - Merging of certain landscape features (trees in line, wooded strips and hedges)
  - More flexibility for the qualification of landscape features:
    - Corresponding area calculated up to the maximum width or size
    - Adjacency notion extended (to two adjacent elements)
- Land lying fallow: Minimal duration of 6 months (possibility to resume production for farmer before the end of the year)

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## Amendments to Delegated act

- Catch crop and green cover
  - Removal of deadline for sowing (before 1st October)
  - Common minimum duration (8 weeks)
- Nitrogen fixing crops:
  - Allowing mixture of seeds for Nitrogen Fixing Crops (NFC)
- Ban use of pesticides on productive EFA (Nitrogen fixing crops, catch crops and green cover, land lying fallow and strips along forest)

## Change from Omnibus (amendment of Basic act)

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## Definition of permanent grassland

On voluntary basis Member States may decide to:

- Apply "**ploughing up**" as a criterion to prevent temporary grassland from becoming permanent grassland/to convert permanent grassland to arable land (+ "amnesty" clause)
- (in the whole or part of their territory) Include **shrubs or trees that produce animal feed but are not directly grazed** by animals provided that the grasses and other herbaceous forage remain predominant.
- (in the whole or part of their territory) Include land which can be grazed where grasses and other herbaceous forage are not predominant or are absent.

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## Greening

### **Simplification and extension of scope of existing exemptions - crop diversification:**

- Holdings where rice represents > 75 % of arable land: 3 crops obligation but maximum threshold not applicable;
- Holding where leguminous crops represent > 75 % of arable land: exempted of crop diversification (same treatment as foreseen for Ecological Focus Area (EFA));
- Holdings where grassland, land lying fallow, rice or permanent grassland are predominant: full exemption of crop diversification whatever the remaining arable land size (no more upper limit of 30 ha);
- Spelt: distinct crop

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## Greening

### **Simplification and extension of scope of existing exemptions – Ecological Focus Area (EFA)**

- Holding where grassland, land lying fallow, rice or permanent grassland are predominant: full exemption of EFA whatever the remaining arable land size (no more upper limit of 30 ha).

### **New EFA types + new weighting**

- Miscanthus and Silphium perfoliatum – weighting 0,7
- Land lying fallow covered with melliferous plant ( pollen and nectar rich species) – weighting 1,5
- Weighting increased for nitrogen-fixing crops (1,0) and short rotation coppice (0,5)

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## Conclusions

- Greenings offer a **wide potential** based on the **area coverage**
- Preliminary results on environmental performance are **promising**
- **Necessity to move forward** to improve the environmental performance. This is of **crucial importance** for credibility of direct payments and Common Agricultural Policy
- Amendment of delegated act is an **important step** in that direction
- Omnibus outcome is political agreement between co-legislators where as a compromise the main principles and framework of the greening were preserved.

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Thank you

Agriculture  
and Rural  
Development

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