



European
Commission

The payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment – Greening

Questions from Member States

*DG Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission*

Agriculture
and Rural
Development

CIRCA BC REFERENCE

This presentation refers to documents stored on CIRCA BC according to the following formula:

Documents on CIRCA BC are stored under the following path:

- Group: Gestion des paiements directs
 - 08. Questions and answers - MS
 - DP - Regulation (EU) No 1307_2013 (greening)
 - 6 folders on the greening issues

Every reply to MS question is accompanied by its ARES number and the file name as it is saved on CIRCA

In case a reply to an MS contains several questions on different issues (e.g. crop diversification and EFA) the reply file is saved in all relevant folders

ARES Number = a number that identifies the reply. It is specified in the file name as "14 D [ARES N]" and in the upper corner of the body of the reply

General issues - definitions

Clarification on crops to be included in grasses or other herbaceous forage

Which of the papilionaceous plants, honeybee plants and medical plants included in mixtures of seeds for pastures or meadows shall be considered as herbaceous forage? *[List of crops provided in the question]*

Reply: Ares(2014) 4378516

File name: 14 A 2487101 - 14 D 4378516 - AF - LV reply on greening

Crop diversification - summary

Considering guidelines (some issues discussed in Direct Payment Committee yesterday) and replies given to MS, here a summary of the main recent points regarding crop diversification

- Crop diversification period (Article 40 Reg. 639/2014)
 - Unique in a MS for all crops (14 A 1831234 - 14 D 3277459 - Reply II to Hungarian questions ...)
 - To be defined by the MS in late spring – early summer (May-July), not too long (maximum 3 months recommended) - (aid application guidelines)
- Declaration of the crops (aid application guidelines)
 - In case of succession of crops in the same year: only the crop present in the field during the major part of the "crop diversification period" has to be declared
 - Where relevant for EFA and/or other schemes, beneficiaries might also be required to declare specifically for those purposes the crop following the crop present during the major part of the "crop diversification period"
 - Relationship declaration for CD and EFA: table in guidelines (chapter 4.3.3)

Crop diversification - summary

- Classification of the crops (Article 44(4) Reg. 1307/2014)
 - Vegetables: classified under point a) and b) of this article depending on the botanical family (Not yet on CIRCABC)
 - Small areas crops (14 A 2487101 - 14 D 4378516 - AF - LV reply on greening)
 - Each crop should be declared in the application and classified following Art. 44(4)
 - Graphical declaration : should be possible to declare only alpha-numerically
- On the spot checks (OTSC guidelines)
 - The shares of crops has to be respected each day of the period, even in case of succession
 - Presence of the crop in the field can be checked by the presence of the residues of the crop

Environmentally sensitive permanent grassland (ESPG)

Starting year for environmentally sensitive PG

The first year where ESGP should not be converted or ploughed is 2014 or 2015?

Reply: [Ares \(2014\)4500750](#)

File name: 14 A 3097372 - 14 D 4500750 - AF - SL questions on greening

New agricultural land after 1 January 2015 with regard to ban of converting-ploughing in ESGP

Please confirm that any new agricultural land in the areas stipulated in Article 45(1) of Reg. 1307/2013, which will enter the LPIS after 1 January 2015 as arable land has to be considered as arable land and will not be under the ban on converting and ploughing.

Reply: [Ares \(2014\)4500750](#)

File name: 14 A 3097372 - 14 D 4500750 - AF - SL questions on greening

Clarification on ban of conversion

Please clarify the requirement "Farmers shall not convert ..." in Article 45(1): does it mean only that permanent grassland must not be changed into other uses?

Or is to be interpreted in a wider sense, i.e. preservation of a favourable habitat to meet the objectives of Natura 2000 directives (e.g. a farmer should ensure that permanent grassland is not managed intensively as regards the use of fertilisers, number of cuttings etc.)?

Reply: [Ares \(2014\)4500750](#)

File name: 14 A 3097372 - 14 D 4500750 - AF - SL questions on greening

Ecological Focus Areas I

Land lying fallow – sowing grass or green cover:

Is it possible, for the purpose of meeting the EFA requirements, to sow grass on fallow land during the fallow period and, if so, whether this grass can then be cut or grazed after the fallow period?

Could the so called green land laying fallow in which plants are grown during the summer period for green manure purpose be regarded EFA ?

Could we impose a green cover in the autumn of the first year for the Land laying fallow based on GAEC 4 standard ?

Could we declared land under greening cover as catch crop (year n) and then land as Land laying fallow (year n+1) ?

Reply: Ares(2014) 4255172

File name: 14 A 1837583 - 14 D 4255172 - DL - Reply to UK on LLF

Further clarification given on 14 A 1837583 - 14 D 3177670 - Reply II to UK questions on greening

Other replies not yet on CIRCA

Land lying fallow – possibility to use herbicides:

Whether temporary grassland not used for for production, sprayed with Glyphosate herbicides – could be recognised as fallow land for EFA purposes? Whether use of herbicides is allowed on fallow land?

Reply: Ares(2014) 4378516

File name: 14 A 2487101 - 14 D 4378516 - AF - LV reply on greening

Ecological Focus Areas I

Land lying fallow – minimum duration

Working document Ares (2014) 1922362, CIRCA BC reference: DS/EGDP/2014/6

Reply: Ares(2014) 4255172

File name: 14 A 1837583 - 14 D 4255172 - DL - Reply to UK on LLF

Further clarification given on 14 A 1837583 - 14 D 3177670 - Reply II to UK questions on greening

Land lying fallow – agricultural activity:

Whether specific criteria of the agricultural activity could be set by the Member states for fallow land?

Reply: Ares(2014) 4378516

File name: 14 A 2487101 - 14 D 4378516 - AF - LV reply on greening

Ecological Focus Areas II

Field margins – buffer strips – strips along forest as separate parcels

May field margins, buffer strips and strips along forest edges be considered as separate agricultural parcels to which a different (lower) minimum size applies?

Reply: [Ares\(2014\)4481035](#)

File name: 14 A 2556699 - 14 D 4481035 - Reply to Germany field margins strips definition

Field margins – buffer strips – strips along forest cover

As what kind of crop should field margins be declared in the context of crop diversification?

As what kind of crop should buffer strips and strips along forest edges without production be declared in the field of crop diversification?

Reply: [Ares\(2014\)4481035](#)

File name: 14 A 2556699 - 14 D 4481035 - Reply to Germany field margins strips definition

Ecological Focus Areas II

Crops preceding-following catch crops

Does Article 45(9) of Reg. 639/2014 mean that a catch crop has to be (in)between main agricultural crop, meaning that both crops have to be present, or the catch crop is allowed after the main crop?

A catch crop must therefore been sown after the harvest of the main crops of year N and must disappear in (the beginning of) year N+1 to give way to the main crop of year N+1?

Must the green cover been kept until the beginning of year N+1 giving way to a new summer crop as main crop of year N+1 or could the farmer plough up the green cover already in year N in order to sow a winter crop in autumn of that year N?

Example of the second option: Maize with grass under-sown and declared as main crop in year N, harvested in late September of year N and followed by winter wheat sown in late October of year N?

Replies: Not yet on CIRCABC

Nitrogen fixing crops growing season

According to Article 45 (10) of Reg. 639/2014, nitrogen-fixing crops have to be present in the growing season. Is it appropriate to define the period as the period between 7 May and technological ripeness or 1 September, meaning that if a nitrogen-fixing crop is ripe before 1 September the requirement for EFA is considered to be complied with?

Reply: Ares (2014)4500750

File name: 14 A 3097372 - 14 D 4500750 - AF - SL questions on greening

Thank you