Implementation of the Maintenance of Permanent Grassland in Germany

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Protection of environmentally sensitive permanent grassland (ESPG)

- **Area designated according to Article 45 (1) of R. 1307/2013 as environmentally sensitive permanent grassland:**

  permanent grassland situated on 1 January 2015 in areas covered by Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
  575,000 ha of ESPG out of a total of 4,800,000 ha of PG. (PG in Natura-2000 areas about 960,000 ha)

- **No areas designated outside of areas covered by Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC.**
Maintenance of permanent grassland – obligation level –

- **Permanent grassland obligation level: region**

  13 regions (NUTS 1-Level) which correspond to the Länder with the exception of the City States Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen which form a common region with the surrounding Land.

- **Ratio of PG in 2015 compared to the reference ratio 2012 on regional level**

  between + 1.2 % and – 3.5 %
Maintenance of permanent grassland outside of areas covered by Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC

Conversion of PG is subject to a prior authorisation on holding level

- As a general rule an authorisation is only granted if another area with the same number of hectares is established as PG in the region (by the farmer/ by another farmer).
- An authorisation is refused if other legal provisions or obligations of the farmer against public authorities are an obstacle (e.g. regional or national environmental legislation) or the PG in the region has decreased by more than 5%
 …. conversion of PG is subject to a prior authorisation on holding level

- In certain cases an authorisation is granted without an obligation to establish a new area of PG (new PG in 2015).

- conversion of PG without authorisation: the farmer is obliged by the competent authority to re-establish the area as PG
Maintenance of PG in Germany
Experiences

Before the implementation of the CAP reform

- Incentives to convert PG into arable land (Subsidies for renewable energies, high commodity prices)

- Missing incentives to establish new PG with the option for a later re-conversion into arable land (high risk of property damages)

- Increasing restrictions in the legal framework (regional conversion bans, ECJ-judgement on PG, EFA-obligations for arable land)

- Uncertainty in respect of the new rules on PG maintenance in the framework of the CAP reform
Maintenance of PG in Germany
Outlook

Implementation of the CAP reform

- Authorisation system will avoid that the ratio of PG is considerably decreasing notably above the 5 % limit
- Farmers must not fear disadvantages due to the voluntary establishment of new PG
- PG Guidance document delivers clarity for some issues
- Bureaucratic system