Expert group meeting for direct payments « Greening »
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Maintenance of permanent grassland in Luxemburg

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✔ Permanent grassland: particularity in Luxembourg
✔ Identifying the information needed for the management of PG
✔ Design of the permanent grassland layer
✔ Management of authorisations
✔ Sensitive permanent grassland
✔ Reference ratio
Permanent grassland: particularity in Luxembourg

Rules on permanent grassland on two levels

First pillar:
- ✓ Maintenance of permanent grassland (national level)
- ✓ Option: authorisation in case of conversion of PG
- ✓ Sensitive grassland

Second pillar:
Basic agri-environment- climate sub-measure:

prime à l’entretien du paysage et de l’espace naturel – PEEN

- ✓ Maintenance of permanent grassland (holding level) since 1997
- ✓ Authorisations since 2002
- ✓ Additional sensitive grassland since 2015
Permanent grassland: particularity in Luxembourg

Importance of the basic agri-environment and climate measure in the maintenance of permanent grassland:

✓ 96% of the agricultural surface under contract
✓ General rule: no conversion of permanent grassland allowed
✓ For practical reason, there are 3 exceptions to the rule:
   ➢ Renewal of permanent grassland, arable crop allowed for one year
   ➢ Conversion of permanent grassland when 95% of the area is compensated by arable land converted into permanent grassland
   ➢ Conversion due to the reorganisation of the holding (without compensation)

❓ Almost no change in the permanent grassland ratio at a national level
Identifying the information needed for the management of PG

✓ Age

Definition [R(EU) n° 1307/2013]: "permanent grassland and permanent pasture" (together referred to as "permanent grassland") means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or more

➢ Age of green cover attached to each parcel and its geometry

✓ Conversion

In case the ratio decreases more than 5%: obligation to reconvert

➢ Years since status change PG to AL or permanent crop

✓ Conservation

After conversion or reconversion PG has to remain unchanged for 5 years

➢ Years remaining during which grassland cannot be converted

✓ Renewal

PG (except sensitive grassland) can be renewed over a period of 2 years

1 year AL than back to PG

➢ Information to avoid error code of status change during the renewal year

Design of a separated permanent grassland layer where each parcel has 4 counters attributed
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**Sensitive permanent grassland areas (1st and 2nd pillar)**

- EFA
- Permanent grassland
- Area declaration
- LPIS
- Orthophotos
Design of the permanent grassland layer

Reference year: application form 2012 as it is the reference year for the ratio

- Declared permanent grassland age 6
- Declared temporary grassland age 2
- Other declared arable land age 0

Evolution of the counters by using the declared parcels on aid application

- Declared grassland age +1
- Declared arable land age 0 if temporary grassland or AL (age 0-5)
  age unchanged if PG (age > 5) and not authorised
  age 0 if PG (age > 5) if previously authorisation

Information on counters given in the aid application

Automatic control by the system of irregular status change

- error code if not authorised
Management of authorisations

4 types of authorisations/obligations

- Renewal  maximum area per year
- Conversion with compensation maximum area per year
  5 % tolerance
- Conversion due to reorganisation of the holding
- Obligation to reconvert if ratio decreases > 5 %

Automatic control by the system

- Location of the grassland parcel sensitive grassland (1st pillar)
  defined areas (2nd pillar)
- Maximum area
- Tolerance
- Counters of grassland parcels and arable land parcels
Sensitive grassland

Decision taken together with the Ministry of Environment

Definition of sensitive grassland at a national level:

1st pillar: Habitats that needed to be protected identified on a map
Flooding area
Total area 2015: +/- 3000 ha in Natura 2000
 +/- 3500 ha outside Natura 2000
10 % of total permanent grassland

2nd pillar: Natura 2000
Nature reserve
Existing sensitive grassland map
Total area 2015: +/- 13500 ha
20 % of total permanent grassland
Reference ratio

\[
\text{Reference ratio} = \frac{(\text{PP declared 2012 + PG declared 2015 not declared 2012}) - \text{PG declared by SFS 2015 - PG declared in organic farms 2015 - PP declared 2012 converted into other uses subject to the limit set in Article 43(2)}}{\text{Total agricultural area declared 2015 - Agricultural areas declared by SFS 2015 - Agricultural areas declared in organic farms 2015}}
\]

PG is a annual layer:

- PP declared 2012 available
- PP declared 2015 not declared 2012 not directly available
- PP declared 2012 converted not directly available

➤ Manual intervention needed

Many changes in declared permanent grassland due to the exception of conversion with compensation

- converted PG age 6 to age 0
- compensated PG age 0 to age 6

➤ Almost no change in the total area
Reference ratio

\[
\text{Reference ratio} = \frac{\text{PP declared 2012 + PP declared 2015 not declared 2012} - \text{PP declared 2012 converted}}{\text{Total agricultural area declared 2015} - \text{Agricultural areas declared by SFS 2015 - Agricultural areas declared in organic farms 2015}}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{PP declared 2012 + PP declared 2015 not declared 2012} & \quad - \quad \text{PP declared 2012 converted} \\
\text{PP declared 2015 (directly available)} & \quad \text{if PP declared 2015 not declared 2012} > \text{PP declared 2012 converted} \\
\text{PP declared 2012 (directly available)} & \quad \text{if PP declared 2015 not declared 2012} > \text{PP declared 2012 converted}
\end{align*}
\]

➢ Determine the reference ratio by taking the highest value of 2012 and 2015?
➢ No heavy intervention needed to calculate

PP declared 2012 converted and PP declared 2015 not declared 2012