



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate D. Direct support
D.2. Greening, cross-compliance and POSEI

Brussels,

NOTE FOR THE FILE

Subject: Meeting DG AGRI/Danish Agricultural and Food Council (DAFC)

Participant: [Art 4.1 (b) - privacy]

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council (DAFC) represents the farming and food industry of Denmark including businesses, trade and farmers' associations. A short meeting with DG AGRI on 27/01/2015 was requested by the DAFC to discuss 4 greening issues. The outcome is the following:

Increase of the EFA weighting factor for catch crops. DAFC is of the opinion that the environmental benefit of catch crops is higher than the one reflected in Annex X of R1307/2013. An academic study was handed over to support this request. DG AGRI representatives specified that the factors are laid down in an Annex of the basic act, which may be modified by a delegated act. They reminded that the discussion on the fixing of these factors had a political dimension. They referred also to the future reviews of the greening, in particular the 2017 EFA report.

Withdrawal of the requirement to have a mixture of species for catch crops counting for EFA. DAFC is of the opinion that this requirement is not justified and makes the controls more difficult, since it cannot be checked by remote sensing. DG AGRI representatives reminded the biodiversity objective of EFA and the need to adapt the usual practices of catch crops (most notably under the Nitrates Directive) to serve the biodiversity objective.

Control of all greening requirements during the same inspection visit: DG AGRI representatives said that the aim is that the number of control visits on the farm should be limited to the extent possible. However, in cases where it is not possible to verify the fulfilment of the greening requirements in one visit (e.g. catch crops), which depends also on MS choices, an additional visit to the farm will be necessary. It was reminded that controls by remote sensing are still possible but they sometimes need to be followed up by rapid field visits, which is the usual practice. In this case the burden for farmers is very limited.

As concerns the verification of the fulfilment of the requirement on crop diversification DAFC suggested a more flexible approach towards the type of accepted evidence. DG AGRI representatives explained that it is not possible to accept evidence which does not show a clear link between the crop and the field, e.g. invoices for seeds, which may prove the intention of the farmer to sow that certain seed but not prove that the crop has actually been on a field. It was also recalled that some form of flexibility already exists with the possibility to control after harvest on the basis of crop residues.

DAFC gave a copy of a memo (attached) which was forwarded to the cabinet, on these issues and other simplification proposals in view of a meeting planned with the Commissioner on 05/02/2015.

[Art 4.1 (b) - privacy]

Annex: Memo on simplification proposals from DAFC

[Out of scope]