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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support under the CAP - Presidency suggested amendments on block 1 and block 4

With a view to the meeting of the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions (Post-2027 CAP), (WP HAQ) on 26-27 February 2026, delegations will find in annex the Presidency suggested amendments on the above proposal, concerning block 1, "Introductory Provisions and types of support", and block 4, "Generational renewal and young farmers and farm relief services". The changes compared to the Commission proposal are marked in ***bold italics*** (additions) and ~~strikethrough~~ (deletions).

ANNEX

Proposal for a

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establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034

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(4) In order to ensure that the Union adequately addresses the most pressing challenges for the agricultural sector, it is appropriate to provide for a steering mechanism reflecting the orientations of the Vision for Agriculture and Food for a targeted policy. To advance towards a competitive, resilient and sustainable agricultural sector, in line with the outcome of the stakeholders' consultations, the CAP national recommendations should provide a sufficient level of policy steering at Union level, to guide Member States in the design of their NRP Plans as regards agriculture, defining the relevant interventions on the basis of their specific challenges and needs. ***Taking into account the non-legally binding nature of these recommendations, their primary function is to facilitate Member States in addressing the key challenges in the agricultural sector and rural areas with the aim to achieve the CAP relevant specific objectives.***

(6a) Women, and especially young women, face structural disadvantages in access to land, finance, training, advisory services or farm succession that constitute major barriers to entry in and development of farming businesses.

Article 1

Subject matter

In order to ensure a strong, sustainable and resilient ~~common~~***European*** agricultural ~~policy~~***sector***, Union food security, generational renewal and vibrant rural areas, ***/***this Regulation lays down specific conditions for the implementation of the Union support for the common agricultural policy (CAP) in accordance with the general objective laid down in Article 2, point (c), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].***/***

/This Union support shall be provided under the National and Regional Partnership Fund (the 'Fund') in accordance with the rules governing that Fund laid down in Regulation (EU) […] [NRP]***/***.

Article 2

CAP national recommendations and steering

1. The Commission shall adopt CAP national recommendations providing guidance to each Member State for the implementation of the CAP-relevant specific objectives set out in Article 3, point (d), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP], within their NRP Plans in line with Article 22 of that Regulation in advance of the submission of the NRP Plans by the Member States. The CAP national recommendations shall be based on the following:

(a) contribution to fair and sufficient income for farmers and their long-term competitiveness, including the farmers' position in the value chain;

(b) improvement of attractiveness of the profession and foster generational renewal ***including living and working conditions***;

(c) enhancing climate action, ecosystem services provision, circular solutions, the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, sustainable farming and improve animal welfare;

(d) improving resilience, farmers' preparedness and ability to cope with crises and risks;

(e) enhancing the access to knowledge and accelerate innovation and the digital transition for a thriving agri-food sector.

The CAP national recommendations may be updated by the Commission, as appropriate.

2. The Commission shall base the CAP national recommendations on an analysis of the situation of the agricultural sector and rural areas, including demographic factors, structural and territorial characteristics as well as food security in each Member State.

3. In the CAP national recommendations, the Commission shall in particular identify key challenges to be addressed by each Member State in their NRP Plan, on the basis of the CAP-relevant specific objectives set out in Article 3, point (d), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

Article 5

Types of ~~support~~*interventions*

1. The following ***types of*** CAP interventions are set out:

(a) degressive area-based income support;

(b) coupled income support;

(c) crop specific payment for cotton;

(d) payment for natural and other area specific constraints;

(e) support for disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements;

(f) agri-environmental and climate actions;

(g) payment for small farmers;

(h) support for risk management tools;

(i) support for investments for farmers and forest holders;

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(j) support for setting-up of young farmers~~,~~ ***or*** new farmers, rural business ~~and~~ start-ups***, farm household income diversification and business*** ~~and~~ development of small farms;

(k) support for farm relief services;

(l) LEADER;

(m) support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;

(n) territorial and local cooperation initiatives;

(o) interventions in outermost regions;

(p) interventions in smaller Aegean islands;

(q) EU school scheme referred to in Title I, Part II, Chapter IIa***, section 2***, of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[1];

(r) interventions in certain sectors referred to in Title I, Part II, Chapter IIa, ***section 3,*** of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;

(s) crisis payments for farmers.

2. Interventions referred to in paragraph 1, points (a) to (k), and interventions in certain sectors referred to in Title I, Part II, Chapter IIa, of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall be income support interventions to be financed from the Fund in accordance with Article 10(2), point (a), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

3. ***Areas used for the*** production of hemp varieties with Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content exceeding 0,3% shall not be eligible ~~for support~~***hectares*** under this Regulation.

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[1] Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj).

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Article 14

Setting-up of young farmers *or new farmers*, rural business ~~start-up and~~*start-ups, farm household income diversification and business* development of small farms

1. Member States shall provide support ~~for the setting-up of young farmers and the start-up of rural businesses, including the setting-up of new farmers,~~ under the conditions laid down in this Article and as further specified in their NRP Plans~~.~~ ***, for:***

~~2. Member States may only grant support under this Article to help:~~

(a) the setting-up of young farmers who fulfil the conditions provided for by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article 4(22), point (d), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

(b) ~~the start-up of~~ rural ~~businesses linked to agriculture or forestry including the setting up of new farmers, or farm household income diversification into non-agricultural activities;~~***business start-ups.***

2a. Member States may provide support, under the conditions laid down in this Article and as further specified in their NRP Plans, for:

~~(c)~~***(a)*** the ~~start-up of rural businesses~~***actions for farm household income diversification into non-agricultural activities***;

~~(d)~~***(b)*** the business development of small farms, as determined by Member States~~.~~***;***

(c) the setting-up of new farmers who fulfil the conditions provided for by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article 4(23), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP].

3. Member States shall set conditions for the submission and the content of a business plan which beneficiaries must provide in order to receive support under this Article.

4. Member States shall grant support in the form of lump sums or financial instruments or a combination of both. Support shall be limited to the maximum amount of aid of EUR 300 000 and may be differentiated in accordance with objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

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Article 15

Strategy on* Generational Renewal ~~strategy~~*in Agriculture

Member States shall establish in their NRP Plan a Strategy on Generational Renewal in Agriculture to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of interventions targeting young farmers under this Regulation, and national initiatives. The Strategy shall include:

(a) an assessment of the current demographic situation in the agricultural sector;

(b) identification of entry barriers for young farmers and proposed national initiatives and measures ***set out in the NRP plan*** to overcome them;

(c) description of how the Starter pack for young farmers referred to in Article 16 will be ~~utilised~~***used*** in the national context;

(d) synergies between measures contributing to generational renewal set out in the NRP Plan.

Article 16

Starter pack for young farmers

1. ~~The~~***Member States shall establish a*** Starter pack for young farmers ~~shall include a set of the following measures,~~ in line with the Strategy on Generational Renewal in Agriculture referred to in Article 15~~;~~**.**

1a. The Starter pack for young farmers shall include the following interventions:

(a) support for setting-up of young farmers in accordance with Article ~~14~~***14(1)(a)***;

(b) degressive area-based income support for young farmers in accordance with Article 6;

~~(d)~~***(ba)*** investment support with higher aid intensity for young farmers~~;~~ ***in accordance with Article 13 of this Regulation and Article 35(4) second subparagraph of Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP].***

1b. The Starter pack for young farmers may include the following measures:

~~(c)~~***(a)*** support for small farmers in accordance with Article 7 ~~targeting young farmers~~***of this Regulation***;

~~(e)~~***(b)*** possibilities of financing investments implemented ~~by young farmers~~ through the financial instruments in accordance with Article 71 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

~~(f)~~***(c)*** support for rural business start ups ***in accordance with Article 14(1)(b) of this Regulation***;

(ca) actions for farm household income diversification into non-agricultural activities in accordance with Article 14(2a)(a) of this Regulation;

~~(g)~~***(d)*** cooperation interventions facilitating access to innovation ~~through the projects of EIP-AGRI operational groups~~ in accordance with Article 19 of this Regulation and Article 74 of Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP];

~~(h)~~***(e)*** cooperation interventions facilitating intergenerational cooperation including farm succession in accordance with Article 74 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

~~(i)~~***(f)*** support for farm relief services in accordance with Article 17 ***of this Regulation***;

~~(j)~~***(g)*** access to advisory services and training programs ~~tailored to young farmers' needs~~, in accordance with Article 20 ***of this Regulation***.

2. Member States shall ~~integrate in the~~ design ~~of~~ the ***interventions and*** measures referred to in paragraph 1 ***[and 1a] taking into account the*** links and synergies with other measures set out in their NRP Plans, in particular in respect to measures facilitating intergenerational succession and generational renewal, investments for rural business start-ups, or access to and use of financial instruments.

3. In order to facilitate access to the interventions ***and measures*** referred to in paragraph 1 ***and 1a***, Member States shall ~~establish a~~***have one or more national or regional*** single ~~point~~***points*** of access ~~for young farmers which may provide inter alia~~***to all*** information on support opportunities and procedures ~~and facilitate~~***,*** the entry ***to*** and the establishment in the agricultural sector, including ***information on*** submission of funding applications and guidance***, relevant for young farmers***.

Article 17

Farm relief services

1. Member States may provide support for the farm relief services, ~~allowing~~***to replace*** farmers ~~to take a~~***when they take*** leave for sickness, childbearing, care for children and other family members, holidays and similar ~~life events~~***cases***, as well as ***for*** participation in ~~trainings, as further specified~~***training. Member States shall specify the conditions for such support*** in their NRP Plans.

2. This support shall be limited to the ***costs of*** setting up of farm relief services and to ***the*** costs of wages of the workers replacing the ~~farm holder~~***farmer*** during a limited period of time.

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