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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 drafting suggestions on block V

With a view to the meeting of the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions (Post-2027 CAP), (WP HAQ) on 21-22 April 2026, delegations will find in annex the Presidency suggested amendments on the above proposal, concerning block 5, "Leader, knowledge and innovation and data governance". The changes compared to the Commission proposal are marked in ***bold italics*** (additions) and ~~strikethrough~~ (deletions).

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Article 18

LEADER

1. Member States shall provide support ~~for~~***under*** LEADER to prepare and implement LEADER local development strategies under the conditions laid down in Article 76 ***and 77*** of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] and as further specified in their NRP Plans.

2. Member States shall support LEADER ~~at least~~ in ***rural areas taking into account the need to support*** rural areas with specific disadvantages ~~defined~~***as determined*** by the Member States in ~~the NPR~~***their NRP*** Plans.

3. Member States shall provide support ~~through~~***under*** LEADER for projects ~~implemented by local action groups involving startups, value added capacity in transformation~~***including rural business start-ups, on farm processing***, diversification of farm activities, including agrotourism, direct sale of agricultural products ~~and~~***,*** innovation ***and digitalisation***.

4. Support provided ~~from~~***under*** LEADER shall be focused on ~~rural development fields~~***projects*** with added value for ***rural communities,*** farmers and forest holders, such as social, environmental, digital and economic ~~transformation~~***transition*** of rural areas, ***promotion of gender equality and social inclusion,*** improvement of well-being of rural citizens~~,~~ ***and*** strengthening social capital.

Article 19

Support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

1. Member States shall provide support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture***, and where relevant***, forestry and rural areas under the conditions laid down in this Article. Member States shall provide support:

   (a) to ~~prepare and~~ implement the projects of the EIP-AGRI operational groups ~~as well as actions to ensure broader uptake of projects' results~~;

(b) for ***knowledge sharing actions such as advice, training, skills development,*** actions to promote innovation~~, training and advice, skills development, advisory services and~~ ***or*** other forms of knowledge sharing and dissemination of information~~.~~

(1a) Member States may provide support for:

(a) the preparation of projects of the EIP-AGRI operational groups or actions to ensure broader uptake of the EIP-AGRI operational group projects' results;

(b) the setting up of farm advisory services referred to in Article 20(3);

(c) capacity building of advisors providing farm advisory services referred to in Article 20(3).

Support for ***farm*** advisory services ***referred to in point (b) and (c)*** shall only be granted for those advisory services that comply with Article ~~20(3)~~***20(4)***.

2. The aim of EIP-AGRI shall be to accelerate development and use of innovations by improving the exchange of knowledge and fostering synergies between policies, actors and instruments in agriculture, forestry and rural areas. Results from its work shall be disseminated and multiplied through the AKIS.

The EIP-AGRI shall:

(a) support cooperation projects for innovation through operational groups based on the 'interactive innovation model' referred to in paragraph 4***3***;

(b) link research and~~ farming and forestry~~ practice and inform the scientific community of the needs ~~of those practices~~***in agriculture, forestry and rural areas***;

(c) connect innovation actors and projects, particularly via the Union and national CAP networks;

(d) ~~promoting~~***promote*** the use of innovative solutions through dissemination of information and knowledge, including farmer-to-farmer exchanges ***where appropriate***.

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3. The projects implemented by the EIP-AGRI operational groups shall be based on the 'interactive innovation model' that complies with the following principles:

(a) develop innovative solutions focusing on the specific needs of farmers, ~~forester~~***forest*** holders and rural actors ***including where relevant increasing the potential for a scale up of those innovative solutions***;

(b) bring together partners with complementary knowledge such as academia, researchers and the farming community, and where relevant, actors of the food chain and ensure their active involvement in projects;

(c) the projects are co-created and co-decided among the actors involved in the projects and implemented in a consultative manner~~, including ensuring the potential for scale up~~.

Member States shall ensure that the key results of the projects referred to in this paragraph are disseminated through practice-oriented channels, including the national and Union CAP networks. The disseminated information shall include the objectives of the projects, participating partners, key thematic areas addressed, geographical location of the project, total budget, and the final outcome of the project, with focus on the practical innovative solutions developed.

4. Member States may grant support for projects of EIP-AGRI operational groups under the following conditions:

(a) support may only be granted on the basis of an approved project plan that is based on the principles referred to ***in*** paragraph 3;

(b) the operational group implementing the project shall involve at least two different actors and shall contribute to one or more CAP-related specific objectives set out in Article 3, point (d), of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP];

Member States shall set objective criteria and transparent requirements for the content, the duration, the submission and approval of project plans to be drawn up by the EIP-AGRI operational groups.

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Member States shall not provide support under this paragraph to projects involving research bodies only.

~~5. Member States shall not provide support under this Article to knowledge sharing and innovation involving research bodies only.~~

Article 20

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation ~~systems~~*System* and farm advisory services

1. Each Member State shall ensure that farmers and ***where relevant*** forest holders have access to innovation and that new knowledge reaches them in a timely and effective manner, enabling them to deploy innovative and sustainable solutions effectively and profit from up-to-date knowledge in the agricultural sector.

2. To meet the requirement laid down in paragraph 1, each Member State shall ~~establish~~***describe*** in the NRP Plan how innovations and up-to-date knowledge reach farmers ***and where relevant forest holders***, in particular through the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (the AKIS). The AKIS shall include:

   (a) arrangements to ensure effective knowledge flows and synergies between advisors, researchers, practitioners, national CAP networks and other relevant stakeholders;

   (b) actions to improve access for farmers and forest holders to impartial ***advice*** and qualified ~~advice~~***advisors, in accordance with paragraph 4***;

   (c) support for innovation as ~~a~~ part of the farm advisory services, ~~particularly support for the~~***in particular for*** EIP-AGRI operational groups referred to in Article 19 ~~including for the use of the 'interactive innovation model' referred to in Article 19(4)~~;

   (d) a plan to improve dissemination and demonstration of research outcomes and innovative and sustainable solutions to farmers~~, forester~~ ***and where relevant forest*** holders and other end-users at a large scale;

   (e) interventions set out in the NRP Plan supporting AKIS operation, in particular those referred to in Article 19, and their complementarity and coherence with relevant national initiatives and other relevant measures set out in the NRP Plan;

(f) a system for provision of farm advisory services, established in accordance with paragraph 3.

3. As part of the AKIS, Member States shall describe in the NRP Plans, and implement, a system for provision of ***advice, the*** farm advisory services***,*** to be established to support access to knowledge and wider deployment and use of innovations. The farm advisory services shall cover ~~all~~ the following elements:

(a) advice to farmers and ***where relevant,*** forest holders ***in particular*** on sustainable and resilient management of land, farms and forests tailored to farm types and different production systems, as well as on the requirements for support set out in the NRP Plans, including farm stewardship, setting-up and transfers of holdings and start-ups; business management, access to social support, raising awareness about mental health issues and availability of the relevant services; and the use of innovations, data-driven solutions and digital tools;

(b) targeted advice for young ***farmers and new*** farmers, in particular as regards business management, access to finance, access to public support, access to knowledge and innovation.

4. Member States shall ensure that farmers and ~~forester~~***where relevant forest*** holders have direct access to advisers, such as by providing public databases of advisors. Member States shall ensure that the advice provided to farmers and forest holders is impartial, and that advisors are suitably qualified and free from conflict of interest.

Article 21

Authority in charge of data governance under the CAP

1. Each Member State shall designate one authority responsible for taking or coordinating actions to ***gradually*** achieve and maintain national and***, where appropriate,*** cross-border interoperability between information systems used for the implementation, administration, monitoring and evaluation of the CAP for the benefit of farmers and other CAP beneficiaries. For the purposes of this Article, interoperability means the ability of information systems to interact with each other by sharing data by means of electronic communication.

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2. The designated authority shall have in particular the following tasks:

(a) drawing up and submitting to the Commission a Roadmap at the level of the Member State to achieve and maintain interoperability (hereinafter the 'Roadmap') and ~~follow up of~~***interacting with the*** Commission ~~observations~~ on ***the content of*** the Roadmap;~~–~~

(b) coordination of the implementation, or, as decided by the Member State, implementation of the Roadmap in an efficient, effective and timely way~~.~~***;***

(ba) consider, where relevant, Union-level standards for cyber security, data protection and interoperability.

The Member States shall notify the Commission of the designation of the authority at the latest by [OPOCE: [within three months from the entry into force of this Regulation].

3. The Roadmap referred to in paragraph 2 shall cover:

(a) identification of needs to achieve and maintain interoperability as referred to in paragraph 1, and design of measures to address them as well as ***a*** timeframe ~~with milestones and targets~~ for their implementation;~~–~~

(b) identification of possible synergies with other Union and national interoperability initiatives.

To the extent possible, Member States shall base their assessment of needs and the design of the measures on the principle that data is collected only once and re-used.

For the elements referred to in the first subparagraph, point (a), the Member State shall consider in particular the need to establish a single digital identity framework and shall consider alignment with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014, including as regards the European Digital Identity Wallet for natural and legal persons.

4. ***Member States shall submit the Roadmaps to the Commission by 16 December of 2028. Thereafter,*** the Member States shall submit to the Commission by 16 December of ~~each~~***every second*** calendar year ~~an annual report~~***reports*** on the implementation of the Roadmap, assessing the progress of the implementation of the steps and measures and the timeframe set out in the Roadmap.

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Where necessary, Member States shall submit to the Commission amendments of the ~~Roadmaps~~***Roadmap*** together with the ~~annual reports~~***report***.

~~Member States shall submit the first annual report to the Commission by 16 December 2029.~~

5. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 23, ~~which~~***to supplement paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 of this Article with rules that*** are necessary to ensure that interoperability and seamless data exchange between information systems used for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CAP are implemented in an efficient, coherent, effective and timely manner~~, supplementing this Article with rules where the implementation of the Roadmap referred to in paragraph 2 so requires as well as rules on interoperability measures referred to in paragraph 3, point (b).~~**.**

6. The Commission may adopt implementing acts laying down rules on:

   (a) form and content of the Roadmap and ~~annual~~***the*** report;

   (b) arrangements for transmitting or making available to the Commission the ~~Roadmaps and annual reports.~~ ***Roadmap and report.***

   These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 24.

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