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INFORMATION

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Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar
Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh 2026

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Irish Presidency's suggestions for the post-2027 CAP Regulation Block 7a

WP Horizontal Agricultural Questions
14th and 15th of July 2026

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Working party on horizontal agriculture questions

Revised Presidency Text – Doc WK11499/26

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Block 7a

- Article 2a - Definitions
- Article 2b - Definitions to be provided for in the NRP Plans
- Article 17a - Specific provisions concerning CAP interventions on cooperation
- Article 20a - Crisis payments to farmers following natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events

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Definitions – Table 1/2		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
Article 2a (1)	(1) 'Farmer' means: a natural or legal person, or a group of natural or legal persons, regardless of the legal status granted to such group and its members by national law, who has a holding as defined in Article 4(~~16~~***15***) of NRPP regulation, and who exercises an agricultural activity as determined by Member States in accordance with Article 2b(3) of this Regulation.	Updated reference in line with NRPR PGA text (Presidency will reflect further on the definition of farmer and active farmer, following the discussion at the HAQ on the 2nd of July)
Article 2a (2)	'Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System' or 'AKIS' means the combined organisation and knowledge flows between persons, organisations and institutions who use and produce knowledge and ~~*innovations*~~***innovation*** for agriculture and interrelated fields referred to in Article 20 of this Regulation;	Clerical

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Definitions – Table 2/2		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
Article 2a (3)	‘organic farming’ means organic production ~~*system*~~ certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council[1] 1 Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj).	Deletion of "system" as not defined in Regulation (EU) 2018/848. To note that both organic and in-conversion production can be certified under Reg 2018/848, hence both are covered by this definition.
Article 2a (4)	‘the smaller Aegean islands’ means any islands in the Aegean Sea except the islands of Crete and Evia~~;~~.	Clerical

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Definitions to be provided for in the NRP plans – Table 1/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
Article 2b 3.	'Agricultural activity' shall be determined through ~~*one or both of*~~ the following activities***, between which farmers may choose***:	Legal clarification that Member States must determine both types of activities in the NRPP, but farmers have the option to select between them.
Article 2b 3. (b)	maintenance of agricultural areas, which consists of ~~*the*~~ activities aiming at keeping the land in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation; where duly justified for animal welfare or environmental reasons, extensive grazing of an agricultural area that does not result in an increase of agricultural production for the farmers concerned may also be considered 'maintenance'.	Clerical
Article 2b 4.	'Agricultural area' shall be determined ~~*in such a way as*~~ to comprise only land which is used for agricultural activities, including when it forms agroforestry systems.	Clerical
Article 2b 5.	'Eligible hectare' shall be determined ~~*in such a way as*~~ to comprise only areas which are at the farmers' disposal and which comprise:	Clerical

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Definitions to be provided for in the NRP plans – Table 2/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
Article 2b 5. (a)	agricultural areas on which an agricultural activity is performed under the farmer's control in terms of management, benefits and financial risks. If non-agricultural activities are also performed on these areas, the agricultural activity shall be predominant***. Where duly justified for environmental, biodiversity or climate-related reasons, Member States may decide that eligible hectares also include certain areas used for agricultural activities only every second year***;	To provide an option for farmers to perform an agricultural activity every second year, where duly justified for environmental or climate reasons. Continuity of status quo.
Article 2b 5. (b)	areas for which support was provided under interventions referred to in Article 5(1) points (a) and (g) [degressive income support, small farmers] of this Regulation, or gave a right to payments under the basic income support for sustainability under Title III, Chapter II, Section 2, Subsection 2, [BISS [all incl. entitlements], small farmers scheme], of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, where agricultural activity is not performed due to commitments and obligations arising from Union or national ***law,*** interventions or other programmes which contribute to the environmental and climate-related CAP specific objectives;	To provide an option for farmers to include areas subject to commitments or obligations arising from national laws. Note: Comma to be inserted after law (although not currently in the compromise text doc WK11499/26)

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Definitions to be provided for in the NRP plans – Table 3/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
Article 2b 5. (c)	Member States may decide to include ~~*in the notion of 'eligible hectare'*~~ landscape features, not covered by the commitments and schemes referred to in point (b), provided that these landscape features do not significantly hamper the performance of agricultural activity and are not predominant on the agricultural parcel. ***As regards permanent grassland with scattered ineligible features, Member States may decide to apply fixed reduction coefficients to determine the area considered eligible***	Clerical To provide clarification that reduction coefficients may be applied on Permanent grassland. Status quo.
Article 2b 6.(a)	an upper age limit set between 35 years and 40 years ***inclusive***;	To provide clarification that young farmers may qualify under this definition up to and including their 40th year.

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Definitions to be provided for in the NRP plans – Table 4/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
Article 2b 6. (b)	***Young farmer definition - New sub-paragraph to be inserted*** ***Member States may include further objective and non-discriminatory requirements concerning appropriate training or skills.***	Note this insertion is missing from latest compromise text in error. It will be amended in the next draft. The intention is to include this provision in both paragraphs 6 and 7 to provide Member States with the option of setting out training or skills criteria. Status quo.
Article 2b 7.	'New farmer' shall be determined in such a way as to refer to a farmer other than a young farmer and who is head of the holding for the first time. ***Member States may include further objective and non-discriminatory criteria concerning appropriate training or skills.***	As above.

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Specific provisions concerning CAP interventions on cooperation		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
17a	1. Member States shall limit the support for setting-up of producer groups or~~,~~ producer organisations ~~or interbranch organisations~~ ~~refered~~ **referred** to in Article 74(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) […] NRP to ~~10% of the turnover of the group or organisation with~~ a maximum of EUR ~~100 000~~125,000 per year. ~~; that support shall be degressive and limited to the first five years following recognition or the start of joint activities intended to lead to recognition as determined by Member States in the Agriculture chapter of their NRP Plans.~~	(i) Interbranch organisations removed and given their own provision under paragraph (2) as they do not generate a turnover. (ii) Also moved degressivity/five-year limit wording to a new paragraph 3 covering both POs and Interbranch Organisations. (iii) Ceiling raised from €100,000 to €125,000 per year to reflect inflation.
17a	**2. Member States shall limit the support for setting-up of interbranch organisations referred to in Article 74(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) […] NRP to 10 % of the annual ~~turnover~~ income of the interbranch organisation, up to a maximum of EUR 125,000 per year.**	New paragraph created for interbranch organisations reflecting their support is more appropriately capped by reference to income than annual turnover.
17a	**3. The support referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be degressive and limited to the first five years following recognition or following the start of joint activities intended to lead to recognition as specified by Member States in the Agriculture chapter of their NRP Plans.**	Moved from paragraph 1 due to new paragraph 2. No change in substance.

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Crisis payments to farmers following natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events – Table 1/2		
Article	**Amendment**	
20a	Member States may provide crisis payments to farmers that are affected by natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events **including those caused by animal and plant diseases**. Those payments shall aim at ensuring continuity of the agricultural activity of those farmers and shall be subject to the conditions set out in this Article and as further specified by the Member States.	(i) Updated to be consistent with Article 34 of the NRPP regulation
20a	Support under this Article shall be subject to the formal recognition by the competent authority of the Member State that a natural disaster, adverse climatic event or catastrophic event**, including where caused by animal and plant diseases**, as defined by the Member State, has occurred and that these events, or measures adopted in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 to eradicate or contain a plant disease or pest, or measures adopted to prevent or eradicate animal diseases listed in the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 or measures adopted regarding an emerging disease in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 259 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 have directly caused a damage resulting in the destruction of ~~at least~~ **which exceeds** 30 % of the average annual production of the farmer in the preceding three-year period or a three-year average based on the preceding five-year period, excluding the highest and the lowest entry.	(i) As above (ii) Wording changed to be consistent with Annex 2 of the WTO AoA

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Crisis payments to farmers following natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events – Table 2/2		
Article	**Amendment**	
20a	3. The losses shall be calculated either at holding level, at the level of the holding's activity in the sector concerned or in relation to the specific area ~~concerned~~ **of a holding.**	Wording changed to clarify that the losses relating to a specific area are calculated at the holding level.
20a	4. Member States shall establish the applicable support rates for compensating the loss of production. Those rates ~~shall~~ **may** be higher for farmers who also implement interventions, or other preventive actions at farm level, to reduce the level of production and income risks for which support is granted. **Member States shall determine the interventions or other preventive actions at farm level based on which higher support rates shall apply.** Indexes may be used for calculating the loss of production.	(i) Gives MS discretion on whether to apply higher rates for farmers who implement preventative actions. (ii) New sentence added to clarify that MS must specify which interventions or other preventive actions qualify for higher support rates.

Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar
Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh 2026

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Irish Presidency's suggestions for the post-2027 CAP Regulation Blocks 7b and 7c

WP Horizontal Agricultural Questions
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Revised Presidency Text – Doc WK11499/26

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Block 7b

- Article 20f - Monitoring of agricultural resources
- Article 20g -Requirements concerning CAP interventions in the NRP Plans
- Article 20h - European and national CAP Networks
- Article 21b - State aid

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Monitoring of Agricultural Resources – Comparison Table 1/1		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20f(1)	The Fund may support***, pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation (EU) …/… [NRP – technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission]*** actions...	Clerical, indicates how the mechanism is funded.
20f(1)(b)	...so as to enable estimates to be made, ***including through econometric models and studies***, in particular as regards yields and agricultural production and agricultural impacts associated with exceptional circumstances,...	Better alignment with current provision to ensure legal certainty that such work may continue.
20f(1)(b)	progress towards the achievement of the relevant ***EU economic, environmental and social sustainability goals, including in the context of the*** United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;	Change to ensure that the primary focus of this monitoring is the EU goals, including in the context of wider strategic concerns.
20f(2)	Where necessary, those actions shall be carried out in collaboration with the European Environment Agency, national laboratories and bodies or with the involvement of the private sector.	New paragraph to ensure that collaboration may continue under a clear legal basis, as is the current practice.

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Requirements concerning CAP interventions in the NRP Plans – Table 1/2		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20g(a)	the type of intervention ~~on which it is based~~, ***in accordance with Article 5 of this Regulation, and*** the territorial scope ~~and the type of area targeted by~~ of the intervention;	20g(a) is limited to only those elements that apply to every intervention.
20g(b)	where applicable, sectors targeted ~~by the intervention~~ or group of farmers or other beneficiaries targeted ~~under the intervention,~~, ***the area or type of area targeted and the*** CAP environment and climate priority area ***targeted***, in accordance with Article 4 of this Regulation;	20g(b) is now clearly limited to the targeting of the intervention.
20g(c)	Article ~~20l~~***20i***	Clerical.
20g(d)	a description of the design of the intervention, including ***a list of*** the eligibility conditions~~, and, for agri-environmental and climate actions referred to in Article 10 of this Regulation~~;	Simplified detail for eligibility conditions set out in Plan. Clerical - deletion of error text.
20g(e)	~~a description of farming practices in accordance with paragraph 5 of~~***for agri-environmental and climate actions referred to in Article ~~3~~10*** of this Regulation ***a selection of the relevant farming practice or practices***;	Clearer drafting. Intention is still that Member States select the relevant JRC farming practice for AECAs.

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European and CAP Networks – Table 1/3		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20h (1)	Each Member State shall, at the latest 12 months after the approval ~~by the Commission~~ of the Plan, establish and ~~support~~ ***maintain*** a national network for CAP.	Clarified what was intended by the term "support", here.
20h (1a)	***Where necessary, due to the Member State's institutional, legal and financial framework, two or more regional CAP Networks may be established for the purpose of paragraph 1. In this case, the combined objectives and tasks of these regional CAP Networks as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 shall cover the entire territory of the Member State concerned.***	New paragraph intended to provide necessary flexibility for Member states with institutional difficulties requiring two parallel CAP Networks.

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European and CAP Networks – Table 2/3		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20h (3)(a)	involve stakeholders in the ~~design and~~ implementation ***and, where relevant, the design*** of the CAP interventions of the NRP Plan;	Clarifies the main objective, and the possibility to support amendments, or future programmes.
20h (3)(c)	improve the quality of the ~~NRP Plans and in particular their~~ implementation of measures related to agriculture and ***rural development under the NRP Plans and*** disseminate results;	Clarifies the possibility to work on non-CAP interventions, where relevant.
20h (3)(f)	disseminate information on the CAP and ***inform potential beneficiaries of*** funding opportunities;	Clarifies the target of this work.
20h (3)(g)	contribute to further development of the CAP***, including contributing to the development of the future CAP, and examination of previous CAP programmes***.	Clarifies the possibility for the Network to also focus on past and future CAP programmes.

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European and CAP Networks – Table 3/3		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20h (4)(d)	support the networking of funded cooperation projects, such as local action groups under Article XX of this Regulation [LEADER] ***and under Article XX of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP – CLLD]***, EIP-AGRI operational groups referred to in Article 19 of this Regulation and promote links to other Union-funded strategies ***and other relevant actors***.	Clarifies the main objective, and the possibility to support other relevant interventions and actors, according to Member State priorities.
20h (5a)	***The cost of establishing and operating the national CAP Networks may be funded by Member States under technical assistance as referred to in Article XX of Regulation (EU) […][NRP].***	New paragraph to clearly identify the source of funding for the Networks.

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Block B: Remaining provisions – Table 1/1		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20i	No amendment.	Majority of Member States support as drafted.
20j	No amendment.	Majority of Member States support as drafted.
21a	No amendment.	Majority of Member States support as drafted.
21b	Clerical amendment "~~that~~ regulation" to "***this*** regulation".	Majority of Member States support as drafted. May require technical legal alignment with CMO Regulation at a later date.

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Revised Presidency Text – Doc WK11499/26

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Block 7c

- Article 20k - Control and penalty system for farm stewardship
- Article 20l - Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS)

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Control and Penalty System for Farm Stewardship – Table 1/3		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20k (1)	1. For the purposes of the obligation laid down in Article 62(1), first subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP], Member States ~~*shall*~~***may*** make use of their control and enforcement systems in the areas of climate and environment, public health, plant health and animal welfare~~*, social and employment legislation, applicable labour* standards~~ to ensure that beneficiaries of the support comply with the statutory management requirements listed in Annex I, Part A.	To give Member States flexibility on using other control and enforcement systems when developing their control and penalty system for farm stewardship. Deletions in line with removal of social conditionality (Part B) from Farm Stewardship
20k (2)	2. The ~~*managing authority or paying agency*~~***Member States*** shall ~~*be notified where relevant at least once a year of cases of non-compliance where enforceable decisions in that respect have been made under the applicable control and enforcement systems referred to in paragraph 1. That notification shall include an assessment and grading of*~~***set up a system to implement administrative penalties, including ensuring access to the necessary information to assess and grade*** the severity, extent, permanence or reoccurrence and intentionality of the non-compliance concerned. ***The relevant competent authority shall exchange the data and control results with the CAP paying agency at least once a year.***	Streamlining of text to ensure sufficient flexibility for Member States to set up a system for administrative penalties, whilst ensuring cooperation from the relevant competent authorities regarding necessary data exchange at least on an annual basis.

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Control and Penalty System for Farm Stewardship – Table 2/3		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20k (3)(a)	the non-compliance is related to the agricultural activity of the beneficiary, as defined by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article ~~*2a(2)*~~***2b(3)*** of this Regulation [Article 4(22) and (23) NRP Regulation];	Clerical, correction of reference
20k (4)	4. Member States shall ~~*set up a system of*~~***apply*** administrative penalties ~~*applying*~~ to beneficiaries referred to in paragraph 3 who do not comply, at any time in the calendar year concerned, with the requirements of the farm stewardship.	Changes for consistency with proposed amendments to paragraph 2, which refer to setting-up the system of administrative penalties.
20k (4) New sub-paragraph	***Member States may decide not to apply an administrative penalty to a beneficiary per a calendar year (a) where the amount of the penalty does not exceed EUR [150]; or, (b) where the amount of the penalty falls between EUR [150] and EUR [250], provided that the Member State concerned applies, under its national law, a threshold equal to or higher than that amount below which administrative penalties of a comparable nature are not applied.*** ***However, the beneficiary shall be informed about the finding of the non-compliance and about the obligation to take remedial action for the future.***	To provide clarity and consistency of current approach at point (a). In addition, it provides further simplification avoiding administrative burden where a similar exception applies in the Member State concerned. Beneficiaries are nevertheless informed of any non-compliances found.

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Control and Penalty System for Farm Stewardship – Table 3/3		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20k (4) Sub-paragraph 5	For the calculation of those penalties, account shall be taken of the severity, extent, permanence or reoccurrence and intentionality of the non-compliance determined. A penalty imposed pursuant to the national legislation implementing the legal acts listed in Annex I, part A, for the same act or omission of a farmer or other beneficiary ~~*shall*~~***may*** be taken into account in the calculation of penalties referred to in the first subparagraph.	To give Members States the option on whether penalties imposed under national legislation are taken into account when calculating penalties under farm stewardship. Administrative simplification.

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Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) - Table 1/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20l (1) New sub-paragraph 3	Where the assessment reveals deficiencies in the elements of the integrated system, Member States shall adopt appropriate remedial actions or, failing that, shall be requested by the Commission to set up a roadmap detailing the timeline for implementing the outstanding remedial actions. ***Any deficiencies found in the assessment shall not directly form a basis for suspension of payments or calculation of financial corrections.***	To protect the independence of the quality assessment process and guarantee Member States that the results cannot be used directly as a basis for suspensions or financial corrections.
20l (1) Sub-paragraph 4	An assessment report and, where appropriate, the remedial actions and the timetable for their implementation shall be submitted to the Commission by 15 ~~*February*~~***March*** following the calendar year concerned.	Extension of deadline, to give Member States additional time to carry out the quality assessment and identify appropriate remedial action, where relevant.

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Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) - Table 2/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20l (4)	The European land monitoring system shall comprise ~~*at least*~~ the data related to the elements of the integrated system referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 70 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] and, where applicable, data shared by farmers with public authorities in accordance with Article ~~*10*~~***21 of this Regulation***. The Member States may provide additional services to enhance the European land monitoring system with other sources of information to the benefit of the farmers.	Change to clarify the extent of information required to meet the legal requirements for ELMS. Further reflection ongoing following recent discussions at HAQ on 1st of July. Correction of Article reference.
20l (4a)	4a. Member States shall ~~*annually*~~ carry out administrative checks on the aid application and payment claims ~~*to verify legality and regularity in accordance with the control and penalty system that they have set up referred to in*~~***for the purpose of*** Article ~~*70(4)(f)f*~~***58(2)(a) of*** Regulation (EU)…(NRP). Those checks shall be supplemented by on-the-spot checks, which may be executed remotely with the use of technology. However, Member States may choose not to carry out on the spot checks where the eligibility conditions ~~*of measures*~~ are monitored under the agriculture monitoring system referred to in point (a) of ~~*this*~~ Article ***70(3) of Regulation (EU) ...(NRP)***. [Transferred from Art. 70(4)(rf) NRP on 4 June 2026]	Correction and updating of legal references in line with NRPR PGA text.

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Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) - Table 3/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20l (5)	5. Where necessary to ensure that the integrated system provided for in Article 70 of Regulation (EU) […] [NRP] and in this Article is implemented in an efficient, coherent and non-discriminatory way which protects the financial interests of the Union, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 23 ***of this Regulation***, supplementing this Regulation with:	Clarification.
20l (6) (a)	The Commission may adopt implementing acts laying down rules on: (a) the form ~~*and content*~~ of, and arrangements for transmitting or making available to the Commission of: (I) the assessment report referred to in paragraph (1); (II) the remedial actions provided by Member States; (b) basic ***technical*** features of~~, *and rules on the*~~:	To ensure that the implementing acts complement rather than extend the provisions laid down within the basic act.

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Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) - Table 4/4		
Article	**Amendment**	**Rationale**
20l (6) (b)	(I) Agriculture Monitoring System (~~*AGMS*~~***AMS***);	Clerical and in line with NRPR PGA text
20l (6) (b)	(II) ~~*geo-spatial*~~***Geo-Spatial*** and animal-based Application system (GSA);	Clerical