



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

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**Interinstitutional files:  
2025/0241 (COD)**

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**Brussels, 10 March 2026**

**WK 3817/2026 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**AGRI**

**AGRIFIN**

**FIN**

**CADREFIN**

**CODEC**

**ENV**

**FORETS**

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## **MEETING DOCUMENT**

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<b>From:</b>	General Secretariat of the Council
<b>To:</b>	Delegations

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<b>N° Cion doc.:</b>	ST 11733 2025 ADD 1 + ST 11733 2025 ADD 1 COR 1 + ST 11733 2025 INIT
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<b>Subject:</b>	Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions (Post-2027 CAP) on 10-11 March 2026 - Presentation of the Cyprus Presidency on the proposed amendments to the CAP articles related to Blocks II
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WK 3817/2026 INIT

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WP HORIZONTAL AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS

# Proposed amendments to the CAP articles related to Blocks II

10th of March 2026

#cy2026eu



## WP HORIZONTAL AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS

### Block 2: Green Architecture

- ❖ Recital 7a
- ❖ Article 3 + Annex I
- ❖ Article 4
- ❖ Article 8
- ❖ Article 9
- ❖ Article 10

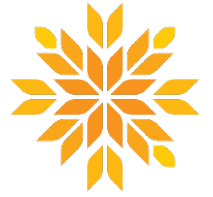




## Recital 7

*In line with the objective ... The CAP post-2027 should accelerate the transition towards more sustainable production methods, contributing to **the** climate-neutrality objective by 2050. The new CAP should offer better rewards for delivering more ambitious ecosystem services which go beyond the results achieved through mandatory requirements. The new CAP should strike a new balance between a farm stewardship with a set of mandatory requirements, and agri-environmental and climate actions which support commitments beneficial for the environment, climate and animal welfare and a transition towards more resilient production systems.*

***(7a) In view of their high performance in respect of the environment, the climate and biodiversity both types of agri-environmental and climate actions (the commitments and the transition) should cover organic farming or more environmentally sustainable livestock production. Considering the significant costs and risks related to changes of production systems, the transition actions should encourage farmers to engage in transformative changes at farm level towards more resilient, sustainable and innovative production systems that are beneficial for the climate, environment and animal health and welfare. Given the importance of other land managers than farmers for nature conservation and improvement of biodiversity, it should also be possible to grant payments for voluntary management commitments to other beneficiaries than farmers.***



Article 3

**Farm stewardship**

...

2) Payments under **the following** interventions ~~referred to in Article 5(1), points (a) to (f), and points (o) and (p), to the extent they concern support for local agricultural products~~, shall be subject to compliance with a system of statutory management requirements and protective practices collectively referred to as 'farm stewardship':

- i. **the interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (a) to (f), and**
- ii. **the interventions referred to in Article 5(1), points (o) and (p) that concern support for local agricultural products referred to in Article 20d of this Regulation and Article 48 of NRPP.**

The list of statutory management requirements and the objectives of protective practices are set out in Annex I.

~~However, the conditions of farm stewardship listed in Annex I, Parts A and C, shall not apply to farmers receiving support under Article 5(1), point (g)...~~



Article 3

**Farm stewardship**

...

- 4) *Member States shall define in accordance with Annex I, Part C, at a national or regional level, protective practices to be respected by farmers and other beneficiaries receiving the support referred to in paragraph 2, to achieve the following **general** objectives:*
- a) protection of carbon-rich soils, landscape features and permanent grasslands on agricultural area;*
  - b) protection of soil against erosion, preservation of the soil **potential health**, maintenance of soil organic matter, including through crop rotation or diversification, as well as protection against burning of stubble on arable land;*
  - c) protection of water courses and ground water against pollution and runoff.*



Article 3

**Farm stewardship**

5. *Member States shall include in the NRP Plan a description of the protective practices defined for each of the objectives set out in paragraph 4 including their territorial scope, farmers and other beneficiaries subject to the practice and a summary of the protective practice. ~~In setting the protective practices, Member States shall take utmost account of the CAP national recommendations referred to in Article 2.~~ Member States shall adapt the protective practices, **when there are** ~~to~~ different land management systems and different environmental and climatic conditions in their territory.*



## Article 3

**Farm stewardship**

6. Farmers ~~whose entire holding is~~ certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4>(\*1)</sup> shall be deemed to comply with protective practices ~~set out in the NRP Plans in respect to objectives set out in paragraph 4, points (b) and (c) listed in Annex I, Part C to this Regulation in relation to their organic production units, as defined in Article 3, point (10), of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, and their in-conversion production units, as defined in Article 3, point (11), of that Regulation.~~ **Member States may, taking into consideration the administrative burden of checks, decide that only farmers certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 whose entire holding consists of organic production units, as defined in Article 3, point (10), of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, or of in-conversion production units, as defined in Article 3, point (11), of that Regulation, or of both such production units, are deemed to comply with protective practices listed in Annex I, Part C to this Regulation.**



Article 3

**Farm stewardship**

7. *In setting the protective practices referred to in paragraph 4, Member States may establish in their NRP Plan specific exemptions from those protective practices based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria, such as crops, soil types and farming systems or damage to permanent grasslands due, inter alia, to wild animals or invasive species. Those specific exemptions shall be limited in terms of their area coverage, shall be established only in the event, and to the extent, that they are necessary to address specific problems in the application of those practices and shall not hamper **significantly** the objectives set out in paragraph 4 or distort competition.*
8. *Member States may grant temporary derogations from protective practices, where weather conditions, **plant diseases or pest infestations** prevent farmers and other beneficiaries from implementing those practices or where the implementation of those protective practices would hamper the objectives set out in paragraph 4. Member States shall ensure that the temporary derogations are limited in their scope and duration to the extent necessary, granted based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria and that they do not hamper **significantly** the objectives set out in paragraph 4 or distort competition.*



ANNEX I

Farm stewardship requirements referred to in Article 3

Part C: Rules on protective practices

General objectives set out in Article 3(4)	Specific objectives of the protective practices
(a) Protection of carbon-rich soils, landscape features and permanent grasslands on agricultural area	Protection of carbon-rich soils including protection of wetlands, peatlands and landscape features
	Protection of environmentally sensitive permanent grasslands on agricultural area in Natura 2000 areas
(b) Protection of soil against erosion, preservation of the soil <i>health potential</i> , maintenance of soil organic matter including <i>crop soil</i> rotation or diversification, and protection against burning of stubble on arable land	Protection of soil against erosion subject to site specific conditions
	Preservation of the soil <i>health potential</i> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protection of soils in periods that are most sensitive</li> <li>- Crop rotation or diversification</li> </ul>
	Maintenance of soil organic matter through crop residue management, including ban on burning stubble on arable land
(c) Protection of water courses and ground water against pollution and runoff	Protection of water courses and ground water against pollution and runoff, including through establishment of buffer strips along water courses



Article 4

## Environment and climate priority areas

1. *Member States shall provide support to farmers and other beneficiaries at least in each of the following **environmental environment** and climate priority areas:*
  - a) *climate change adaptation and water resilience;*
  - b) *climate change mitigation including carbon removals and on-farm renewable energy production, including biogas production;*
  - c) *soil health;*
  - d) *preservation of biodiversity, such as conservation of habitats or species, landscape features, reduction of use of pesticides;*
  - e) *development of organic farming;*
  - f) *animal health and welfare.*

*Member States with areas affected by water pollution due to nitrate surplus shall provide support to farmers, **such as support** for extensification of livestock systems ~~or for~~, diversification to other agricultural activities **or other actions that contribute to mitigating the cause of pollution or restore the water bodies**.*
2. *For each of the priority areas referred to in paragraph 1 support shall be provided under the conditions laid down in Articles 9, 10 **and or** 13.*



Article 8

## Payment for natural or other area-specific constraints

1. *Member States shall provide support to compensate farmers for natural or other area-specific constraints.*
2. *The payment for areas with natural ~~and-or~~ other specific constraints ~~may~~ **shall** be provided in respect of **at least one of the following categories of** areas that:
  - a. *were designated pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council;*
  - b. *are newly designated **by Member States** in view of specific constraints ~~defined by Member States~~ **in accordance with paragraph 2a** and have been included in the NRP Plan.**

~~*Member States may carry out a fine-tuning with the purpose of excluding areas within the areas designated in accordance the first subparagraph, points (a) and (b), under the conditions laid down in Article 32(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. ...*~~



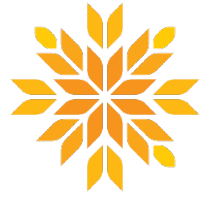
Article 8

**Payment for natural or other area-specific constraints**

2. ...

*The surface of the areas **newly** designated pursuant to the first subparagraph, point (b), shall not exceed 2 % of the utilised agricultural area of the Member State concerned.*

***2a. Member states may designate new areas referred to in paragraph 2, point (b) that are affected by specific constraints, and if it is necessary for land management practices to be continued on those areas in order to conserve or improve the environment, to maintain the countryside, to preserve the tourist potential of the areas or to protect the coastline.***

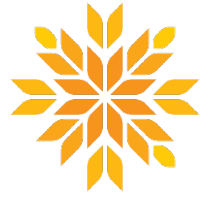


Article 8

**Payment for natural or other area-specific constraints**

***2b. Member States may carry out a fine-tuning with the purpose of excluding areas within the areas designated in accordance with the first subparagraph, points (a) or (b). The fine-tuning shall be based on objective criteria and shall exclude areas where significant natural constraints have been documented but have been overcome by investments, or by economic activity, or by evidence of normal land productivity, or in which production methods or farming systems have offset the income loss or added costs.***

*3. The payments per eligible hectare shall be limited to the additional costs ~~or loss~~ **of and** income **foregone** related to undertaking agricultural production in the designated areas compared to production in non-designated areas.*

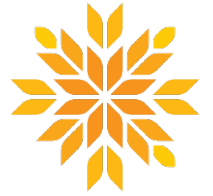


Article 9

Support for disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements

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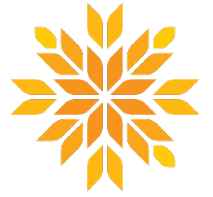
2. *Payments under this Article may be granted to farmers, forest holders and ~~their~~ **forest holders** associations.*
3. *Member States may only grant payments under this Article in order to compensate beneficiaries for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone related to the compliance with mandatory requirements resulting from the implementation of the Union acts and provisions listed in paragraph 1, ~~first subparagraph~~, including transaction costs.*



Article 10

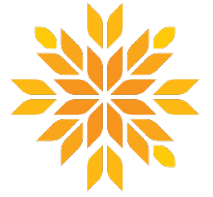
**Agri-environmental and climate actions**

1. *Member States shall provide incentives for the following actions beneficial for the climate, environment, animal health and welfare and sustainable forestry, **contributing to the environment and climate priority areas referred to in Article 4:***
  - a) *voluntary management commitments taken ~~up-on~~ by farmers and other beneficiaries, including commitments to maintain organic farming ~~and extensification of~~ **or extensive** livestock production, ~~established and implemented in accordance with paragraph 3;~~*
  - b) *voluntary transition towards resilient production systems carried out by farmers at the level of the holding or for part of a holding, including conversion to organic farming ~~and~~ **or** extensification of livestock production systems, ~~established and implemented in accordance with paragraph 4.~~*
2. *~~Each Member State shall~~ **States may decide to** provide support for ~~organic farming certified protective practices defined by Member States~~ in accordance with ~~Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>18</sup> and extensive livestock production systems under both forms of action referred to in paragraph 1~~ **Article 3 (4).***



## Agri-environmental and climate actions

3. The ~~management commitments~~ **support** referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), may be **provided in particular for** annual or multiannual ~~and may have in particular the following objectives~~ **management commitments related to:**
- a) **Actions on** protection of water quality and reduction of pressure on water resources, protection of soil, nutrient management, biodiversity conservation, including landscape features and reduction of the use of pesticides;
  - b) **Actions on** climate change mitigation, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation, including animal and plant diversity for resilient ecosystems;
  - c) **Actions on** animal health and welfare, including combating ~~of~~ antimicrobial resistance;
  - d) sustainable use and development of genetic resources; or
  - e) forest environmental services and forest conservation.



Article 10

**Agri-environmental and climate actions**

4. Support for the transition actions referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), shall **be** granted on the basis of a transition action plan drawn up by a farmer and approved by the Member State. To implement the support for transition actions referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), Member States shall describe in the NRP Plan the production systems that they deem beneficial for the climate and environment.

**Member States shall determine the amount of support for transition actions referred to in paragraph 1, point (b) based on cost estimates set out in the transition plans. The support shall be limited to EUR [200 000] per farmer per programming period of the NRP Plan. [From NRP Art. 36(2)]**

Member States shall pay the support to farmers in instalments over the period of implementation of the transition action plan. The payment of the last instalment shall be conditional upon completion of the implementation of the transition action plan. ~~Member States shall ensure that the payments are recovered if the farmer fails to implement the transition action plan.~~ ...



WP HORIZONTAL AGRICULTURAL  
QUESTIONS

Thank you for your  
attention