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CONTRIBUTION

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support under the CAP
- Comments on annex I from Sweden

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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 potential, maintenance of soil organic matter including soil 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 potential, including: - Protection of soils in periods that are most sensitive - Crop rotation or diversification
	Maintenance of soil organic matter through crop residue management, including ban on burning stubble on arable land, except for plant health reasons.
(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

Justification

Annex I, part C, (b): We propose to delete “crop rotation or diversification”. Through the current GAEC 7, a large part of the farming community in Sweden, as well as national authorities, use administrative capacity for requirements only needed in a few cases. Instead of a requirement similar to the current GAEC 7, targeted interventions could be provided for farms or regions where insufficient crop rotation has been identified, including interventions for knowledge transfer. Crop rotation or diversification should not be required in Member States where insufficient crop rotation is not a problem.

Furthermore, burning stubble is a traditional plant protection method used in Sweden, and it is important for us that the exception for plant health reasons in Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 will still be applicable. We consider it very important for our farmers to be able to continue to use this method under certain specific conditions because otherwise they might need to use methods that are less environmentally friendly.

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