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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Antici Group (Simplification)
Subject:	Omnibus package on Agriculture - Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Delegations will find attached a presentation on the Omnibus package on Agriculture prepared by the Commission for the meeting of the Antici Group (Simplification) of 28 May 2025.

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Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) simplification package

[redacted]

Meeting of the Antici Group (Simplification)
28 May 2025

Context

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- Responding to key priorities of the new College – '**Simpler and faster Europe**' and **'Competitiveness Compass'** communications
- Announcement in the **Vision for Agriculture and Food** (Feb 2025)
- Preparation work / stakeholders' inputs:
  - experience of **two full years of CAP strategic plans implementation**
  - input from the **2024 simplification** exercise (MS, farmers' organisations, MEPs)
  - **more than 400 MS proposals** collected by the PL Presidency (Feb 2025)
  - insights from a **farmers' survey** (27000 replies) and the **study on simplification & administrative burden** for farmers and other CAP beneficiaries
  - dedicated discussions in the **CDG** (24 Mar) and **CAP Network** (2 Apr)
- Scope of the **simplification package described in the Roadmap**

Simplification for farmers to better accommodate local conditions, recognise diverse farming practices and avoid overlap with national rules

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- Member States may set the **GAEC standards** so that they are consistent with **mandatory national requirements** for as long as the latter are in line with the GAEC standards;
- **Permanent grassland** – definition (option from 5 to 7 years) and GAEC 1 (10% compared to reference year)
- **GAEC 2 (wetlands/peatlands)** – possibility to compensate farmers for (some or all) requirements
- **GAEC 4 (buffer strips)** – clarification of legislation to better align the definition of water courses with the definition of water courses laid down in national legislation
- **Organic farmers 'green by design'** i.e. deemed compliant with GAEC 1 (maintaining permanent grassland ratio within a maximum decrease compared to reference year 2018), 3 (ban on burning arable stubble), 4 (buffer strips), 5 (tillage management), 6 (protection of soils in periods that are most sensitive) and GAEC 7 (crop rotation on arable land)

Streamlining support for small farmers

- **Lump-sum payments** - increasing payment limit from € 1,250 to € 2,500 and exemption from conditionality requirements
- Simpler conditions for a new **farms' business development** support (lump sum up to € 50,000)

Other measures boosting competitiveness and digitalisation

- Conditions for enhanced use of **digital tools** ('report once, use multiple times' principle)
- Reducing the control pressure by introducing the principle of '**single on-the-spot control'**
- Improved conditions in accessing **financial instruments** (increase of working capital ceiling to € 300,000 and eligibility of VAT)
- Increased flexibilities in **financial assistance to the fruit and vegetable sector**

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Strengthened risk and crisis management tools

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- **Risk management tools** – simpler method for calculation of losses for e.g. young farmers, permanent crops, other justified cases
- Flexibility allowing MS to create under the CAP strategic plans a **crisis payment intervention** to help farmers sustain the impacts of natural disaster and other emergencies (while refocusing agricultural reserve on market disturbance)

Measures for Member States

- Revised approach to **CAP Plan amendments** (ex ante approval only of strategic amendments)
- Discontinuation of the **Annual Performance Clearance** exercise
- Increasing **predictability of CAP support by the end of the programming period** by deletion of the requirement to assess the need to amend the CAP Plans in case of changes to legislation in Annex XIII

Other simplification measures (Roadmap)

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- Cross-cutting legislative **simplification** package of measures **beyond the CAP** (Q4 2025)
- In the area of **CAP secondary legislation**
  - Facilitate uptake of the new possibilities and related financial decisions offered by the simplification package by amending a **Delegated Act extending the deadline for decisions on transfers between pillars** by 3 months
  - Review and identification of possible simplifications in **organic delegated and implementing rules** (process kicked off already in expert groups)
- Other **supporting measures**
  - Alignment of the process of examination of CSP amendments with the changes introduced by the simplification package
  - Revision of IACS quality assessment provisions to limit assessment only to monitorable eligibility conditions
  - Exchanges of best practices (CAP Network, expert groups, …)

Thank you



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