## Basic information

| | |
|---|---|
| **2024/0073(COD)**<br><br>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)<br>Regulation | Procedure completed |
| Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendments to CAP Strategic Plans, review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties<br><br>Amending Regulation 2021/2115 2018/0216(COD)<br>Amending Regulation 2021/2116 2018/0217(COD)<br><br>**Subject**<br><br>3.10 Agricultural policy and economies | |

## Key players

European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development | | |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety | | |

Council of the European Union

European Commission

| Commission DG | Commissioner |
|---|---|
| Agriculture and Rural Development | WOJCIECHOWSKI Janusz |

European Economic and Social Committee

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15/03/2024 | Legislative proposal published | COM(2024)0139 | Summary |
| 10/04/2024 | Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading | | |
| 24/04/2024 | Decision by Parliament, 1st reading | T9-0344/2024 | Summary |
| 13/05/2024 | Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading | | |
| 14/05/2024 | Final act signed | | |
| 24/05/2024 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 2024/0073(COD) |
| **Procedure type** | COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) |
| **Procedure subtype** | Legislation |
| **Legislative instrument** | Regulation |
| **Amendments and repeals** | Amending Regulation 2021/2115 2018/0216(COD)<br>Amending Regulation 2021/2116 2018/0217(COD) |
| **Legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 170<br>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2 |
| **Mandatory consultation of other institutions** | European Economic and Social Committee |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | AGRI/9/15093 |

## Documentation gateway

### European Parliament

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | | T9-0344/2024 | 24/04/2024 | Summary |

### Council of the EU

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Draft final act | 00075/2024/LEX | 14/05/2024 | |

### European Commission

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legislative proposal | COM(2024)0139 | 15/03/2024 | Summary |
| Document attached to the procedure | SWD(2024)0360 | 10/12/2024 | |
| Follow-up document | COM(2026)0037 | 26/01/2026 | |
| Follow-up document | SWD(2026)0019 | 26/01/2026 | |

### National parliaments

| Document type | Parliament /Chamber | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contribution | CZ_SENATE | COM(2024)0139 | 29/04/2024 | |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contribution | IT_SENATE | COM(2024)0139 | 16/05/2024 | |
| Contribution | ES_PARLIAMENT | COM(2024)0139 | 03/09/2024 | |

**Other institutions and bodies**

| Institution/body | Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EESC | Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report | CES1216/2024 | 24/04/2024 | |

| Additional information | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Source** | **Document** | **Date** |
| European Commission | EUR-Lex | |

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

### Other Members

| Transparency | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **Date** | **Interest representatives** |
| FRITZON Heléne | 19/04/2024 | Naturskyddsföreningen |
| TORVALDS Nils | 17/04/2024 | Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto – Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners |

| Final act | |
|---|---|
| Regulation 2024/1468<br>OJ OJ L 24.05.2024 | Summary |

# Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendments to CAP Strategic Plans, review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties

2024/0073(COD) - 24/05/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to re-examine certain provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), with the aim of simplifying matters while maintaining a strong, sustainable and competitive policy for agriculture and food in the EU.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2024/1468 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendment of the CAP Strategic Plans, review of the CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties.

CONTENT: the aim of this regulation is to respond effectively to the concerns expressed by farmers by making targeted changes to the CAP regulations. The review addresses certain elements of the CAP strategic plans regulation and the regulation on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (the 'horizontal regulation'). It comes as a response to issues encountered during the first year of implementation of the new CAP.

The updated rules deliver **simplification, reduce administrative burden, and provide greater flexibility** for complying with certain environmental conditionalities, while ensuring a predictable framework for farmers.

The review covers the following points in particular:

- **removing the obligation for farmers to devote a minimum proportion of their arable land to non-productive areas**, such as fallow land. Instead, farmers will be able to choose, on a voluntary basis, to keep a proportion of their arable land non-productive, or to establish new landscape features (such as hedges or trees) - and thereby receive additional financial support via an eco-scheme that all Member States will have to offer in their CAP Strategic Plans. All EU farmers will be incentivised to maintain non-productive areas beneficial for biodiversity without fearing loss of income;

- **maintaining crop rotation, but allow EU farmers to meet this requirement by choosing to rotate or diversify their crops**, depending on the conditions they face and provided their country decides to include the possibility of crop diversification in its CAP strategy plan;

- allowing Member States, as regards **soil cover during sensitive periods**, greater flexibility in setting what they define as sensitive periods, and the practices allowed to fulfil this requirement, in light of their national and regional conditions, and in the context of increasing weather variability.

Member States may also:

- exempt certain crops, soil types or farming systems from compliance with tillage, soil cover and crop rotation/diversification requirements;

- grant targeted exemptions to allow ploughing to restore permanent grassland on Natura 2000 sites in the event of damage caused by predators or invasive species;

- provide for temporary derogations in extreme cases of **adverse weather conditions** preventing farmers from carrying out their tasks properly and complying with cross-compliance requirements. These derogations must be limited in time and apply only to the beneficiaries affected.

Lastly, this Regulation amends Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 to exempt **small farmers with no more than 10 hectares of agricultural area** from cross-compliance checks and penalties. This will considerably reduce the administrative burden imposed by controls on small farmers, who represent 65% of CAP beneficiaries.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 25.05.2024.

# Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendments to CAP Strategic Plans, review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties

2024/0073(COD) - 24/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament legislative adopted by 425 votes to 130, to 33 abstentions, a resolution on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendments to CAP Strategic Plans, review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading in the framework of the ordinary legislative procedure **taking over** the Commission proposal.

In line with its commitment to reduce the administrative burden on EU farmers, the European Commission is proposing to make targeted adjustments to the regulations on the CAP's strategic plans in order to remedy certain difficulties in their implementation.

The review of the CAP changes the rules relating to **certain environmental conditions** with which farmers must comply in order to receive funding. The review covers the following points:

- allowing Member States to grant temporary and targeted derogations from certain cross-compliance requirements in the light of increasingly unpredictable weather conditions which may prevent farmers from complying with requirements, such as deadlines in a given year;

- authorising Member States to grant specific derogations from standards 5, 6, 7 and 9 on Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) covering situations where there is a risk that the requirements run counter to their objectives, for example because of particular agronomic situations for certain crops on specific soil types and soil and climatic conditions or because of damage to permanent grassland due to wild animals or invasive species,

- removing from GAEC standard 8 the obligation to devote a share of arable land to non-productive areas and features, while maintaining the protection of existing landscape features. Farmers will no longer be obliged to devote a minimum proportion of their arable land to non-productive areas such as set-aside. Instead, they should choose, on a voluntary basis, to retain a proportion of their non-productive arable land - or to establish new landscape features (such as hedges or trees) - and thus benefit from additional financial support through an eco-scheme that all Member States will have to propose in their CAP strategic plans;

- maintaining crop rotation (GAEC standard 7), but allow Member States to add the possibility of meeting this requirement through crop diversification;

- increasing the number of requests for changes to the CAP Strategic Plan, which a Member State may submit to two per year (up from the current one per year);

- exempting small farmers having no more than 10 hectares of agricultural areas from conditionality controls and penalties.

# Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendments to CAP Strategic Plans, review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties

2024/0073(COD) - 15/03/2024 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to re-examine certain provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), with the aim of simplifying matters while maintaining a strong, sustainable and competitive policy for agriculture and food in the EU.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans contribute to the Commission’s ambitious Green Deal agenda, in combination with regulatory initiatives, research investments and other actions to meet the Union’s environmental and 2050 climate objectives. Overall, the new approach works well. However, the first year of implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan has made clear that adjustments are necessary to ensure effective implementation of the plans and cut red-tape.

In view of the widespread farm protests and to analyse the administrative burden weighing on farmers’ shoulders as well as identify areas for improvement, the Commission has written to four main EU-level farming organisations asking them for proposals of measures at EU level (CAP and other EU legislation) which can reduce administrative burden for farmers.

Also, the European Parliament’s committee for agriculture and rural development sent a letter identifying six areas where they consider that concrete and immediate action is necessary.

The consultation of the farming organisations resulted in calls for urgent action to simplify the administrative burden for farmers.

The Commission structured the suggestions received into five broad areas:

1. management of CAP Strategic Plans and procedures around amending strategic plans, performance monitoring and review, and certain elements of the integrated administration and control system as well as the control and penalty system;

2. CAP Strategic Plan actions to the benefit of the environment and of the climate;

3. other CAP provisions beyond environment and climate, such as expanding coupled support, postponing or removing social conditionality, or changes to sectoral support schemes, promotion measures and organic farming;

4. farm income concerns and notably to risk and crisis management;

5. regulations outside the CAP, such as on deforestation, forest monitoring, sanitary rules, or renewable energy.

CONTENT: delivering on its commitment to ease administrative burden for EU farmers, the European Commission proposed to make targeted adjustments to the regulations on the CAP's strategic plans in order to remedy certain difficulties in their implementation.

The Commission proposes a number of changes to conditionality. The review relates to the following conditionalities:

- allow Member States to allow temporary and targeted derogations from certain conditionality requirements in view of increasingly unpredictable weather conditions that can prevent farmers from complying with requirements, such as deadlines in a given year;

- allow Member States to provide specific exemptions from Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) standards 5, 6, 7 and 9 covering situations where there is a risk that the requirements would run counter to their objectives, for instance due to particular agronomic situations for certain crops on specific soil types and pedoclimatic conditions or due to damage to permanent grasslands, among others due to predators or invasive species;

- remove from GAEC standard 8 the obligation to devote a minimum share of arable land to non-productive areas (fallow land) or features (hedges, trees…), while keeping the protection of existing landscape features. Farmers will no longer be obliged to dedicate a minimum part of their arable land to non-productive areas, such as fallow land. Instead, they may choose, on a voluntary basis, to keep a share of their arable land non-productive - or establish new landscape features (such as hedges or trees) - and thereby receive additional financial support via an eco-scheme that all Member States will have to offer in their CAP Strategic Plans. All EU farmers will be incentivised to maintain non-productive areas beneficial for biodiversity without fearing loss of income;

- keep crop rotation (GAEC standard 7) but allow Member States to add the possibility to fulfil this requirement with crop diversification. This flexibility will enable farmers affected by regular drought or excessive rainfall to comply with this condition in a way that is more compatible with farming realities. At the same time, the Commission acknowledges and stresses the agronomic benefits of crop rotation. This is why through eco-schemes more ambitious forms of crop rotation and diversification are and should continue to be rewarded, including notably to include protein crops in the rotation, so as to enhance soil quality and the resilience of crop farming;

- clarify that the application of the standard to cover soil in sensitive periods (GAEC standard 6) will be mostly in the hands of Member States. Member States will have much more flexibility in setting what they define as sensitive periods, and the practices allowed to fulfil this requirement, in light of their national and regional conditions, and in the context of increasing weather variability;

- increase the number of requests for amendment of CAP Strategic Plan, which a Member State may submit to two per year (up from the current one per year);

- limit the obligation for Member States to assess whether their CAP strategic plans need to be modified in the event of changes to certain EU environmental and climate legislation and to notify the Commission of this assessment within a certain deadline in order to reduce the burden and increase the predictability of CAP support for farmers;

- amend Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 to exempt small farmers having no more than 10 hectares of agricultural areas from conditionality controls and penalties.