Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

CAP eligibility

- Under a greener CAP, SNP should have PRIORITY for support, with payments sufficient to prevent abandonment.
- So a new LPIS category – “(semi-)natural pastures” – as the basis for better targeting of Pillar 1?
Start with a harmonised definition of SNP

- **Permanent Pastures** - land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage (self-seeded or sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding ploughed or reseeded for 5 years or longer.

- **Semi-natural Permanent Pastures** consist of predominantly self-seeded forage maintained by livestock grazing and/or harvesting. The vegetation has not been substantially modified by agronomic improvement (reseeding, fertilisation).
Special rules for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

Minimum activity

• Minimum activity should be the key criterion for eligibility on SNP (not necessary for other farmland?).
• How? Minimum livestock density? AGRI don’t like this, but maybe it is ok just for these semi-natural pastures?
• Or can it be checked through remote sensing plus a % of field inspections?
Special rules for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

**CAP rules on trees, hedges etc.**

- EU Guidance should explain special considerations for SNP
- Let Member States define rules for different SNP types
- No need for EU rules on trees, hedges etc in case of SNP
Special rules for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

GAEC and greening rules

• These rules should be specific for SNP, e.g. to prevent ploughing, reseeding and intensification

• For “other” permanent pasture, the aims are different, e.g. preventing conversion to maize, but allowing reseeding
Commission perspective

• Open to the idea of separating older, environmentally valuable grassland from more intensively farmed grassland – but how?

• Open to the inclusion of non-herbaceous permanent pastures, where this is “traditional” – interpretation?

• Open to moving the threshold for permanent pasture from >5 years out of the arable rotation to >7 years – but what about pasture that is reseeded to grass within this period?

• Intends to introduce rules to control “renewal” (reseeding) of permanent pastures – but how restrictive these will be?
Council perspective (Danish)

• Proposed that the obligation for farmers to maintain permanent grassland should apply only to grassland with specific value for environment, climate or biodiversity.

• This is interpreted as permanent grassland which has neither been included in the crop rotation of the holding nor been ploughed for 10 years or longer.
Parliament perspective

- A range of conflicting views within COMAGRI
- Apparently little understanding of the (environmental) issues
- "permanent grassland" means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding; it may include other species suitable for grazing
- Support the idea of applying “co-efficients” to reduce the amount of payments to “extensive” pastures
Member States perspectives???

• Worried about payments being “diluted” (even though under the old CAP, all grazing land was supported by livestock payments)
• E.g. Spain wants the power to set a maximum eligible area at national level
• Position of main players? Germany? France?