



Semi-natural pastures - an integrated EU policy please!

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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?**

