



soil protection and climate - recent proposals of the European Commission

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Content

- New global challenges
- New CAP 2014-2020
- LULUCF
- Agri-environmental measures
- Conclusions



New global challenges

Food demand



Food production under pressure



- land & water resources diminishing
- climate change:
 - more risks of extremes -floods, drought
 - long-term changes in climate



+ Europe urgently needs more growth & employment



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Common Agricultural Policy 2014-2020

Proposals from the European Commission concerning

- June 2011: EU Budget proposal - Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020
 - Position of net payer Member States ?

- October 2011: Common Agricultural Policy 2014-2020
 - National allocation of 1 and 2 pillar ?

CAP Reform proposal: impact on soil and climate

- “Greening” within 1 pillar
- New Cross Compliance requirements
- Rural developement:
 - Agri-environmental programmes maintained
 - **New!** 25% (of financial resources) for climate related measures

“Greening” within 1 pillar

Obligatory and 30 % of 1 pillar payments

- 7% environmental focus area
- freeze in permanent grassland
- 3 crop requirement (between 5 and 70 % of each crop)

First reaction:

- Relation with agri-environmental programmes ?
- Simplification ?
- Higher food demand versus new set aside ?

Agri-environmental measures: impact on soil protection and climate

- ❑ Offered in all Member States
- ❑ Accepted by farmers
- ❑ According to evaluation report successful to obtain environmental improvements
- ❑ Examples of measures:
 - Soil erosion: catch crops, buffer strips, crop rotation
 - Soil structure: reduced tillage, permanent grass coverage
 - Reduction of inputs on soil: fertilisers, plant protection products, organic farming



Austrian agri-environmental program (2010): soil related measures

- 116.122 farms participate at agri-environmental program
- Out of 135.388 farms (= 86 %)

	participants	hectars
Greening arable land in winter	49.905	433.640
Mulch and direct trilling	15.225	140.337
Preventive soil and stretch of water conservation	4.409	157.007
Organic farming	20.789	414.148

EC-Communication: LULUCF (1)

Step wise approach

- First step: common accounting, monitoring and reporting rules
- Second step: LULUCF will formally be included in the GHG reduction target

Urgent need for action: Member States have to compile Action Plans (adequate incentive structures as future CAP)

Agriculture/LULUCF is net sink, creates „artificial“ credits



EC-Communication: LULUCF (2)

From 2013 on:

Report on GHG emissions & removals from activities as:

- Cropland management
- Grassland management
- Forest management

No national emission reduction targets -
„might come later“



Assessment of EC-Communication on LULUCF

- Draft goes beyond agreement in Durban
- Scientific knowledge of carbon storage capacity & emissions still far from complete
- Enormous administrative burden and costs

Hence:

- Accounting rules voluntary for farming and forestry sector
- Avoid imposing additional constraints on farmers and act too hastily

Conclusions

- Strong Common Agricultural Policy with 2 pillars
- Enforce quantitative soil protection
- better functioning markets & food chain
- more emphasis on innovation, training, advice & investment to meet the new challenges



Thank you for your attention!

