



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

GAEC Standards and Public Goods

The case of Biodiversity and Landscape

Ben Allen
Institute for European Environmental Policy

Rome, 6-8 October 2010 - Hotel Hilton Rome Cavalieri



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Presentation Outline

- Use of GAEC standards to deliver public goods
- Focus on Biodiversity and Landscape features
(*Minimum maintenance GAEC standards*)
- Use of this standard in different member states.
- Examples: Buffer strips, and Landscape features
- Recent developments: France, and England(UK)



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Public Goods (*in brief*)

- Markets cannot coordinate supply and demand
- Little incentive to provide
- Public goods from agriculture

Therefore some form of public intervention is justified

- GAEC is one of a range of mechanism that can help to provide public goods

Cooper, T., Hart, K. and Baldock, D. (2009) The Provision of Public Goods Through Agriculture in the European Union. Institute for European Environmental Policy: London.



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

GAEC and Public Goods

- Opportunity to provide a range of public goods
- Provides a foundation on which incentive payments can build (I.e. agri-environment can not pay for GAEC delivery)
- Linked to payments available across the EU
- Potential to provide environmental benefits across a large area of the EU farmed environment
- Large variability in the use of standards in the EU 27



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Minimum Level of Maintenance*

- Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats

Minimum level of maintenance: Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats	— Retention of landscape features, including, where appropriate, hedges, ponds, ditches trees in line, in group or isolated and field margins	— Minimum livestock stocking rates or/and appropriate regimes
		— Establishment and/or retention of habitats
	— Avoiding the encroachment of unwanted vegetation on agricultural land	— Prohibition of the grubbing up of olive trees
	— Protection of permanent pasture	— Maintenance of olive groves and vines in good vegetative condition

*Annex III, Council Regulation (EC) 73/2009



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Interpretation of GAEC standards

- Applied differently across the EU 27
 - Some standards are a statement of national law (e.g. the England Hedgerow Regulations)
 - Some go above and beyond these requirements
 - Represent the variation and complexity of Member States



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Buffer Strips

AT - 10m from stagnant water, 5m from watercourse
(Untilled)

FI - 60cm wide strip at the edge of watercourse
(Untilled, no fertilizers of pesticides)

FR - 3% minimum environmental area(pre 2008)
(specific buffer strips, environmental cover, dates)

UK (Eng) - 2m from centre of a hedgerow, watercourse, or field ditch, or within 1m from top of a bank or field ditch. *(Untilled, no fertilizers of pesticides)*



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Landscape Features

IT - Maintain terraces, preserve olive trees in good condition

CZ - Retain ridges, field roads, watercourses, terraces, windbreaks

UK(Eng) - Retain stone walls, hedgerows, ditches, public rights of way, scheduled monuments

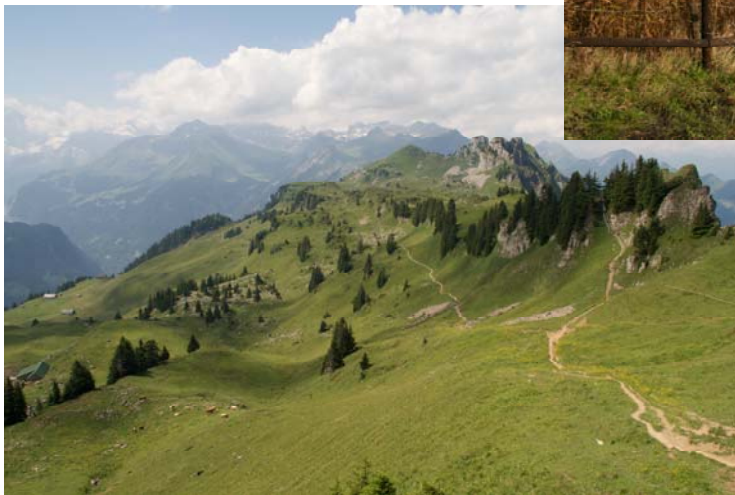
DE - Maintain green cover

ES - Removal of field boundaries or trees requires authorisation



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Area Based Approach





GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

France

- *Maintain a proportion of 'structural elements' on all types of holding (Arable, Pastoral, etc)*
- 1% of a holding in 2010
- 3% of a holding in 2011
- 5% of a holding by 2012
- If sufficient structural elements do not exist they must be created



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

England (UK)

- Proposed GAEC standard for Set Aside mitigation
 - 5% of land to be managed
 - In field options with land out of production
 - Just arable
- Rejected by farming industry
 - Too prescriptive
 - Burdensome
 - Issues with agri-environment scheme overlap
- Formal consultation process
- Adopted an industry lead voluntary approach



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Campaign for the Farmed Environment*



Target Driven & Measured

- Retain un-cropped land at 179,000ha and improve over 1/3 of this to support birds, insects, mammals
- Encourage 60% of farmers outside agri-environment schemes to deliver voluntary environmental management by 2012
- Increase agri-environment scheme uptake to 70%
- Double the uptake of relevant in-field agri-environment options

GAEC option provides regulatory backstop

*<http://www.cfeonline.org.uk/>

Rome, 6-8 October 2010 - Hotel Hilton Rome Cavalieri



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

- **Some benefits to the environment already realised for landscape features and biodiversity**
- **Significant potential to deliver more - building on what has already been achieved**
- **Lack of reporting and monitoring requirement makes it difficult to measure and evaluate impacts**



GAEC WORKSHOP 2010

Thank you for your attention

IEEP web-site for Publications, News and Newsletter on all dimensions of EU environmental policy

www.ieep.eu

AND

For further information on the future CAP debate visit

www.cap2020.ieep.eu

Contact: Ben Allen (*ballen@ieep.eu*)

Rome, 6-8 October 2010 - Hotel Hilton Rome Cavalieri