



GAEC reporting

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Outline

- Context
- List of GAECs
- Main principles
- GAEC 1
- GAEC 2
- GAEC 8
- GAEC 9

Context

- Follow up to the presentation in the GREX on 17/06/2021
- This presentation is part of the work on Article 129 and the discussion of the data needs for monitoring and evaluation.
- Conditionality is important as baseline/foundation of the green architecture. GAECs 1, 2, 8 and 9 are important for broader EU political priorities in relation to climate mitigation and biodiversity.
- Final list of GAECs from reform compromise, need adoption of legal basis. Secondary legislation only for GAEC 1. GAEC fiches are being updated and will be shared.
- IACS implementing and delegated act will include the necessary provisions.

Climate change

- GAEC 1: Maintenance of **permanent grassland** based on a ratio PG/agricultural area (at national, regional, sub-regional, holding level) **(G)**
- GAEC 2: Protection of **wetland and peatland (New)**
- GAEC 3: **Ban on burning** arable stubble, except for plant health reasons **(X-C)**

Water

- GAEC 4: Establishment of **buffer strips** along water courses stubble **(X-C)**

Soil

- GAEC 5: **Tillage management** reducing risk of soil degradation and erosion, with slope consideration **(X-C)**
- GAEC 6: **Minimum soil cover** to avoid bare soil in **periods that are most sensitive (X-C)**
- GAEC 7: Crop **rotation** in arable land, except for crops growing under water **(G)**

Biodiversity and landscapes

- GAEC 8: Minimum **share of agricultural area [arable land] devoted to non-productive areas or features**, retention LF, ban cutting hedges/trees during bird rearing season **(G)**
- GAEC 9: **Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland designated as environmentally-sensitive** in Natura 2000 sites **(G)**



Reporting - main principles

- Simple: No extra burden for beneficiaries coming from reporting requirements. For Member States: focus on information already available, information needed to comply with the legal requirements linked to conditionality and to manage voluntary commitments on the same areas.
- Focus on declared area (not paid or determined)
- Calendar year versus financial year (FY N paid in FY N-1 for CY N-2)
- Simplified reporting of data on selected GAECs
 - [GAEC 1], GAEC 2 GAEC 8 and GAEC 9.
- Individual data: Areas under GAEC requirements
- Information on No of farmers subject to different GAECs can be deducted.

GAEC 1

- GAEC text: “Maintenance of permanent grassland based on a ratio of permanent grassland in relation to agricultural area”
- Article 12(4) (“original” numbering): Empowerment for delegated act to ensure a level playing field as regards the ratio: e.g. calculation of the reference and annual ratio (reference year 2018), individual obligations if the ratio decreases by more than 5%.
- No particular need for reporting of individual data in the GAEC 1 context – the areas of permanent grassland and the agricultural areas already foreseen as part of reporting
- **BUT: Notification of the annual ratio of permanent grassland in the context of GAEC 1 at the level at which the Member States implement the GAEC 1** (national, regional, sub-regional, group of holding or holding level)

GAEC 2 Wetland and Peatland

- Reporting on
 - Areas of peatland. Split on arable land, permanent grassland and permanent crops
 - Areas of wetland.
- To identify wetlands and peatlands on agricultural area, Member States may use existing national mapping and elaborate a specific cartographic layer based on this mapping.
- Information on peatlands and wetlands to be protected under GAEC 2 should be in LPIS feeding farmers' declaration – link to IACS legislation. MS will need to check compliance with the requirements.
- [Footnote on year of implementation]
- Commission's JRC guidance for identification and mapping of carbon rich soils is being developed based the on-going project SEPLA (technical guidance on the creation of LPIS carbon layer).

GAEC 8 Minimum share of agricultural area [arable land] devoted to non-productive areas or features

- There are 3 options for applying the « minimum share » under this GAEC (see annex III of the basic act)
- Reporting on
 - Areas (hectares) of non-productive features used to fulfill the obligation:
 - Split on: Land lying fallow, “hedgerows, individual or groups of trees, trees rows”, “field margins, patches or parcels buffer strips”, ditches, streams, small ponds, small wetlands, stonewalls, cairns, terraces, cultural features, others
 - Reporting on areas with catch crops and nitrogen fixing crop, if applicable
- Only areas declared to fulfil obligation on the share of non-productive features, no “potential” areas needed.
- Measurement based on actual dimensions of landscape features or by application of conversion factors if used by MS
- Simplification in scope: No need to provide data on the « Retention » part of GAEC 8

GAEC 9 Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland designated as environmentally-sensitive permanent grasslands in Natura 2000 sites.

- Report the areas under the obligation: Permanent grassland subject to ban of converting/ploughing per beneficiary
- Identification of these areas of permanent grassland is necessary to distinguish environmentally sensitive permanent grassland from other permanent grassland, temporary grassland and fallow land and thus to identify grassland that must not be ploughed or converted. Permanent grassland created and maintained under RD interventions or eco-schemes need to be distinguished if subject to other conditions (e.g. fertilisation, special type of vegetation).

Thank you for the attention