

# Thematic Group on Effective Approaches for Simplification within the CAP

2nd TG meeting  
12 June 2025

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Streamlining legislation

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# Update on 2nd Simplification package and outlook on 3rd Simplification package

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2nd meeting of the Thematic Group on Effective  
Approaches for Simplification within the CAP

# 2025 CAP simplification package

*12 June 2025*

# Context

- Political Guidelines & COMs '**A Competitiveness Compass for the EU**', '**Simpler and Faster Europe**'
  - Competitiveness, investments, innovation, growth, specific situation of SMEs
  - Systematic simplification, reducing excessive reporting, digitalization for better data management
  - 25% reduction target for admin burden – 35% for SMEs
- Announcement in the **Vision for Agriculture and Food** (Feb 2025)
- Preparation work / stakeholders' inputs:
  - Experience of **two full years of CAP strategic plans implementation**
  - Input from the **2024 simplification** exercise (MS, farmers' organisations, MEPs)
  - **More than 400 MS proposals** collected by the PL Presidency (Feb 2025)
  - Insights from a **farmers' survey** (27,000 replies) and the **study on simplification & administrative burden** for farmers and other CAP beneficiaries
  - Dedicated discussions in the **CDG** (24 Mar) and **CAP Network** (2 Apr)
- Scope of the **simplification package described in the Roadmap**

## Simplification for farmers to better accommodate local conditions, recognise diverse farming practices and avoid overlap with national rules

- Member States may set the **GAEC standards** so that they are consistent with **mandatory national requirements** for as long as the latter are in line with the GAEC standards;
- **Permanent grassland** – definition (option from 5 to 7 years) and GAEC 1 (10% compared to reference year)
- **GAEC 2 (wetlands/peatlands)** – possibility to compensate farmers for (some or all) requirements
- **GAEC 4 (buffer strips)** – clarification of legislation to better align the definition of water courses with the definition of water courses laid down in national legislation
- **Organic farmers ‘green by design’** i.e. deemed compliant with GAEC 1 (maintaining permanent grassland ratio within a maximum decrease compared to reference year 2018), 3 (ban on burning arable stubble), 4 (buffer strips), 5 (tillage management), 6 (protection of soils in periods that are most sensitive) and GAEC 7 (crop rotation on arable land)

## Streamlining support for small farmers

- **Lump-sum payments** - increasing payment limit from € 1,250 to € 2,500 and exemption from conditionality requirements
- Simpler conditions for a new **farms' business development** support (lump sum up to € 50,000)

## Other measures boosting competitiveness and digitalisation

- Conditions for enhanced use of **digital tools** ('report once, use multiple times' principle)
- Reducing the control pressure by introducing the principle of '**single on-the-spot control**'
- Improved conditions in accessing **financial instruments** (increase of working capital ceiling to € 300,000 and eligibility of VAT)
- Increased flexibilities in **financial assistance to the fruit and vegetable sector**

## Strengthened risk and crisis management tools

- **Risk management tools** – simpler method for calculation of losses for e.g. young farmers, permanent crops, other justified cases
- Flexibility allowing MS to create under the CAP strategic plans a **crisis payment intervention** to help farmers sustain the impacts of natural disaster and other emergencies (while refocusing agricultural reserve on market disturbance)

## Measures for Member States

- Revised approach to **CAP Plan amendments** (ex ante approval only of strategic amendments)
- Discontinuation of the **Annual Performance Clearance** exercise
- Increasing **predictability of CAP support by the end of the programming period** by deletion of the requirement to assess the need to amend the CAP Plans in case of changes to legislation in Annex XIII



## Other simplification measures (Roadmap)

- Cross-cutting legislative **simplification** package of measures **beyond the CAP** (Q4 2025)
- Changes to several elements of the **CAP secondary legislation**, such as amending a **Delegated Act extending the deadline for decisions on transfers between pillars** by 3 months
- Other **supporting measures for Member States** to facilitate uptake of the new flexibilities

- [Press release 14-05- 2025 - Commission simplifies Common Agricultural Policy to support farmers and enhance competitiveness](#)
- [Common agricultural policy simplification package proposal](#)
- [Roadmap for simplifying the CAP legal framework to reduce burden on farmers and national administrations](#)

# Thank you

[Agriculture and rural development - European Commission](#)

[EU actions to address farmers' concerns - European Commission](#)

# Streamlining legislation – future actions in addressing complexity beyond the CAP

Fishbowl discussion

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## How it works

- › **Inner circle discussion:** three participants engage in discussion guided by the facilitator's prompts.
- › **Outer circle listen** and prepare points or questions for discussion.
- › **Participation Rules:**
  - › Outer circle participants **can join by tapping the shoulder of a silent inner circle member**. The tapped inner circle member swaps places.
- › **Respectful Engagement:**
  - › Let the current speaker finish before initiating a switch.
  - › Respect diverse viewpoints.
  - › Be concise and relevant to maintain focus.
- › **Conclusion:**
  - › Short debrief to share observations and insights.



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# Guiding questions:

- Where do you see the need for simplification **outside the CAP** affecting administrations, farmers and other beneficiaries?
- What are areas / topics that should not be included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> simplification package?
- How to increase synergies / address inconsistencies between different legislation?

