

CAP transitional rules for 2021 and 2022

The lengthy negotiations on the EU budget and farm policy post-2020 convinced the European Commission to put forward rules in 2019 to ensure continuity of EU support for farmers and rural areas. The European Parliament is set to debate and vote on these transitional rules, extending current EU farm policy until the new common agricultural policy framework is in place (i.e. until the end of 2022), during the December plenary session.

Background

The common agricultural policy (CAP) is one of the main spending programmes in the long-term EU budget, or multiannual financial framework (MFF). In light of the upcoming end of the 2014-2020 budgetary cycle, the Commission presented its proposal for a new CAP legislative framework in June 2018. Lengthy inter-institutional negotiations on both the overall post-2020 MFF and the CAP cast doubt on the likelihood of having the new framework in place by the end of 2020. Therefore, as occurred also in the [previous](#) passage to a new policy cycle, the Commission put forward a legislative package on CAP transitional measures on 31 October 2019. This consisted of a proposal for a flexibility regulation extending certain technical provisions to 2021 (now in force as [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/127](#)) and a [proposal for a transitional regulation](#) setting out a number of amendments to current CAP regulations, as regards their resources and application after 2020.

European Commission proposal

The transitional regulation aims to ensure that current CAP rules continue to apply until the reformed, post-2020 CAP is in force. This would allow continued CAP support for EU farmers and rural areas, and a smooth transition from the current to the future CAP framework. To this end, the Commission's proposal should have triggered a one-year transitional period ending on 31 December 2021. The proposal concerns all the basic acts which regulate how the CAP works.

European Parliament and Council positions

Since their first exchanges of views, EU agriculture ministers backed a quick adoption of the CAP transitional rules. When it became clear that the legislative procedures of the future MFF and CAP would take more time than expected, Member States' delegations supported Parliament's proposal for a longer transition period, also covering 2022. Council and Parliament's negotiators reached an informal deal on the CAP transitional rules on [30 June 2020](#), further confirmed on [27 November 2020](#), with the inclusion of the proposal that the additional funds for rural development stemming from the coronavirus crisis recovery instrument ([Next Generation EU](#)) should be made available through the transitional regulation. The Council's Special Committee on Agriculture endorsed this agreement on [30 November 2020](#).

On 1 December 2020, Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) Committee [endorsed](#) the agreement with the Council (40 votes in favour, 3 against). Presenting the agreement to AGRI members, the rapporteur Elsi Katainen (Renew Europe, Finland) stressed Parliament's achievements on the file, such as the two-year duration of the transitional period, ending on 31 December 2022, and the extension of the multiannual rural development projects focused on environment and climate measures, and on organic farming. Parliament is set to vote on the CAP transitional regulation during the December plenary session.

First-reading report: [2019/0254\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: AGRI; Rapporteur: Elsi Katainen (Renew Europe, Finland). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).

