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2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Regional Development*

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**2011/0280(COD)**

29.8.2012

# DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy  
(COM(2011)0625 – C7-0336/2011 – 2011/0280(COD))

Rapporteur: Catherine Grèze

PA\_Legam

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Together with the proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014 - 2020, the Commission presented a set of Regulations laying down the legislative framework for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the period 2014-2020. Three main challenges have been established within this framework, namely 1) viable food production; 2) sustainable management of natural resources and climate action; and 3) balanced territorial development. As the Commission stated, both Pillars of the CAP will be essential to adequately respond to these issues that are also of great concern for European regions and territories. The new rules for direct payments should ensure a fair and sustainable distribution of resources.

Your Rapporteur fully supports the idea of an ambitious greening of direct payments to farmers. They are one of the answers to the current environmental and social challenges. However, your Rapporteur considers that the current proposals are too weak to lead to a shift to advanced sustainable farming systems that are critical for sustainable territorial development in rural areas. In this regard, your Rapporteur proposes the implementation of measures that would allow a better consideration of European rural territories.

Concerning regional development, your Rapporteur calls for a greater share of annual national ceilings dedicated to additional support to rural development. In the same logic, your Rapporteur is opposed to any reduction of the amounts dedicated to rural development.

## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Agricultural and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation and to avoid unfair competition or discrimination between farmers, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in respect of: the fixation of the annual national ceiling for the basic payment scheme; the adoption of rules on applications for allocation of payment entitlements; the adoption of

##### *Amendment*

(5) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation and to avoid unfair competition or discrimination between farmers, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in respect of: the fixation of the annual national ceiling for the basic payment scheme; the adoption of rules on applications for allocation of payment entitlements; the adoption of

measures regarding the reversion of non-activated payment entitlements to the national reserve; the adoption of requirements related to the notification of transfer of payment entitlements to the national authorities and the deadlines within which such notification are to take place; the setting out of the annual ceiling for the payment *for agricultural practises beneficial for the climate and the environment*; the setting out of the annual ceiling for the payment for areas with natural constraints; the setting out of the annual ceiling for the payment for young farmers; the setting out of the annual ceilings for the voluntary coupled support; the adoption of rules on the procedure for the assessment and approval of decisions in the framework of the voluntary coupled support; the adoption of rules on the procedure of the authorisation and the notifications to the producers related to the authorisation of land and varieties for the purposes of the crop specific payment for cotton; the provision for rules on the calculation of the reduction of the amount of the crop specific payment for cotton; the adoption of rules concerning general notification requirements. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

measures regarding the reversion of non-activated payment entitlements to the national reserve; the adoption of requirements related to the notification of transfer of payment entitlements to the national authorities and the deadlines within which such notification are to take place; the setting out of the annual ceiling for the payment *to establish advanced sustainable farming systems, environmental management and mitigation*; the setting out of the annual ceiling for the payment for areas with natural constraints; the setting out of the annual ceiling for the payment for young farmers; the setting out of the annual ceilings for the voluntary coupled support; the adoption of rules on the procedure for the assessment and approval of decisions in the framework of the voluntary coupled support; the adoption of rules on the procedure of the authorisation and the notifications to the producers related to the authorisation of land and varieties for the purposes of the crop specific payment for cotton; the provision for rules on the calculation of the reduction of the amount of the crop specific payment for cotton; the adoption of rules concerning general notification requirements. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

Or. en

## Amendment 2

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 26

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(26) One of the objectives of the new CAP is the enhancement of environmental performance through a mandatory "greening" component of direct payments which will support ***agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment*** applicable throughout the Union. For that purpose, Member States should use part of their national ceilings for direct payments to grant an annual payment, on top of the basic payment, for compulsory practices to be followed by farmers addressing, as a priority, both climate and environment policy goals. Those practises should take the form of simple, generalised, non-contractual and annual actions that go beyond cross-compliance and are linked to agriculture such as crop ***diversification***, maintenance of permanent grassland and ecological ***focus areas***. The compulsory nature of those practises should also concern farmers whose holdings are fully or partly situated in "Natura 2000" areas covered by Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and by Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, as long as these practises are compatible with the objectives of those Directives. Farmers who fulfil the conditions laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 should benefit from the "greening" component without fulfilling any further obligation, given the recognised environmental benefits of the organic farming systems.

#### *Amendment*

(26) One of the objectives of the new CAP is the enhancement of environmental performance through a mandatory "greening" component of direct payments which will support ***advanced sustainable farming systems, environmental management and climate mitigation*** applicable throughout the Union. For that purpose, Member States should use part of their national ceilings for direct payments to grant an annual payment, on top of the basic payment, for compulsory practices to be followed by farmers addressing, as a priority, both climate and environment policy goals. Those practises should take the form of simple, generalised, non-contractual and annual actions that go beyond cross-compliance and are linked to agriculture such as crop ***rotation***, maintenance of permanent grassland and ecological ***infrastructure***. The compulsory nature of those practises should also concern farmers whose holdings are fully or partly situated in "Natura 2000" areas covered by Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and by Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, as long as these practises are compatible with the objectives of those Directives. Farmers who fulfil the conditions laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 should benefit from the "greening" component without fulfilling any further obligation, given the recognised environmental benefits of the

Non-respect of the "greening" component should lead to penalties on the basis of Article 65 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [HZR].

organic farming systems. Non-respect of the "greening" component should lead to penalties on the basis of Article 65 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [HZR].

Or. en

### Amendment 3

#### Proposal for a regulation Recital 26 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(26 a) The implementation of payments for advanced sustainable farming systems, environmental management and climate mitigation at regional level as provided for by this Regulation may be accompanied by the introduction of territorial pacts signed between regional authorities and farmers. Territorial pacts may lead to the implementation of major specific incentive-based measures, carried out collectively on eligible agricultural land and aiming at protecting water resources, biodiversity and soils, subject to local specificities and based on shared and measurable objectives.***

Or. en

### Amendment 4

#### Proposal for a regulation Recital 29

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(29) In order to ensure the implementation of the ecological ***focus area measure*** in an efficient and coherent way, while taking into account Member States' specificities, the power to adopt acts in accordance with

***(29) 7% of arable land per farm will be used in a way that increases functional biodiversity and therefore agro-ecosystem functioning or public good provision. Elements which are often already eligible***

Article 290 of the Treaty should be delegated to the Commission for the purpose of the further definition of the types of ecological *focus areas* mentioned under that measure ***and the addition and definition of other types of ecological focus areas that can be taken into account for the respect of the percentage referred to in that measure.***

***as environmental measures (e.g. hedges, ditches, wetland and other semi-natural habitat fragments and other existing eligible landscape features) would be added to buffer strips to create agro-ecological infrastructures for sustainable agricultural systems. Therefore this is neither "taking land out of production" nor "new set-aside", but rather an improvement to long-term efficiency of the whole system.*** In order to ensure the implementation of the ecological ***infrastructure*** in an efficient and coherent way, while taking into account Member States' specificities, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty should be delegated to the Commission for the purpose of the further definition of the types of ecological ***ecological infrastructure*** mentioned under that measure.

Or. en

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 33

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(33) Member States should be allowed to use part of their national ceilings for direct payments for coupled support in certain sectors in clearly defined cases. The resources that may be used for any coupled support should be limited to an appropriate level, while allowing such support to be granted in Member States or in their specific regions facing particular situations where specific types of farming or specific agricultural sectors are particularly important for economic, environmental and/or social reasons. Member States should be allowed to use up to 5 % of their national ceilings for this support, or 10 %

#### *Amendment*

(33) Member States should be allowed to use part of their national ceilings for direct payments for coupled support in certain sectors in clearly defined cases. The resources that may be used for any coupled support should be limited to an appropriate level, while allowing such support to be granted in Member States or in their specific regions facing particular situations where specific types of farming or specific agricultural sectors are particularly important for economic, environmental and/or social reasons. ***The use of coupled support should be subject to a specific impact assessment carried out by Member***

in case their level of coupled support in at least one of the years of the period 2010-2013 exceeded 5 %. However, in duly justified cases where certain sensitive needs in a region are demonstrated, and upon approval by the Commission, Member States should be allowed to use more than 10 % of their national ceiling. Coupled support should only be granted to the extent necessary to create an incentive to maintain current levels of production *in those regions*. This support should also be available to farmers holding, on 31 December 2013, special payment entitlements allocated under Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 and who do not have eligible hectares for the activation of payment entitlements. As regards the approval of voluntary coupled support exceeding 10 % of the annual national ceiling fixed per Member State, the Commission should further be empowered to adopt implementing acts without applying Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

**States.** Member States should be allowed to use up to 5 % of their national ceilings for this support, or 10 % in case their level of coupled support in at least one of the years of the period 2010-2013 exceeded 5 %. However, in duly justified cases where certain sensitive needs in a region are demonstrated, and upon approval by the Commission, Member States should be allowed to use more than 10 % of their national ceiling. Coupled support should only be granted to the extent necessary to create an incentive to maintain current levels of production, *sustainable farming practices and environmental management and farm employment in the regions concerned, in particular in areas facing natural constraints, such as island regions and mountainous areas*. This support should also be available to farmers holding, on 31 December 2013, special payment entitlements allocated under Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 and who do not have eligible hectares for the activation of payment entitlements. As regards the approval of voluntary coupled support exceeding 10 % of the annual national ceiling fixed per Member State, the Commission should further be empowered to adopt implementing acts without applying Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

Or. en

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 43

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(43) With a view to strengthening their rural development policy, Member States should be given the possibility to transfer funds from their direct payments ceiling to their support assigned for rural

#### *Amendment*

(43) With a view to strengthening their rural development policy, Member States should be given the possibility to transfer funds from their direct payments ceiling to their support assigned for rural



development. *At the same time, Member States where the level of direct support remains lower than 90 % of the Union average level of support should be given the possibility to transfer funds from their support assigned for rural development to their direct payments ceiling.* Such choices should be made, within certain limits, once and for the whole period of application of this Regulation.

development. Such choices should be made, within certain limits, once and for the whole period of application of this Regulation.

Or. en

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii

*Text proposed by the Commission*

ii) a payment for farmers *observing agricultural* practises beneficial for the climate and the environment;

*Amendment*

ii) a payment for farmers *adopting advanced sustainable farming* practises beneficial for *biodiversity, good management of soil fertility and water*, the climate and the environment, *which go substantially beyond compliance rules*;

Or. en

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(ba) advanced sustainable farming systems mean farming practices going beyond existing cross-compliance baseline rules of the Regulation (EU) No ...[HZR] and in continuous progress to improve their management of natural nutrients, water cycles and energy flows in a way to*

*reduce environmental damage and waste of non-renewable resources, and maintain a high degree of crop, farm animal and natural diversity in the production system;*

Or. en

*Justification*

*A shift to advanced sustainable farming practices is critical for sustainable territorial development in rural areas.*

**Amendment 9**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point f a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(fa) "crop rotation" means crop cultivation including at least four different crops including one leguminous crop;*

Or. en

**Amendment 10**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point h a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(ha) "ecological infrastructure"; elements of landscape, agro-forestry, biodiversity, water and soil management, biotopes, etc which stabilise and enhance agro-ecological farming practices and environmental management systems;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 11**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – title**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Active farmer*

*Amendment*

*Exclusion from direct payments*

Or. en

## **Amendment 12**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point a a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(aa) the land is not farmed or actively managed in good agricultural and environmental conditions according to Article 4 of this Regulation by applicants for these payments;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 13**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point a b (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(ab) unsustainable farming and animal breeding practices are implemented which systematically and seriously breach cross-compliance rules as defined in Regulation (EU) No ... [HZR] due to insufficient nutrient management and consequent water pollution, stocking densities being too high for the hectares available, high dependence on external energy, biocides, antibiotics, water and nutrient inputs;*

*Justification*

*A shift to advanced sustainable farming practices is critical for sustainable territorial development in rural areas.*

**Amendment 14****Proposal for a regulation****Article 14 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1***Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Before 1 August 2013, Member States may decide to make available as additional support for measures under rural development programming financed under the EAFRD as specified under Regulation (EU) No [...] [RDR], up to **10** % of their annual national ceilings for calendar years 2014 to 2019 as set out in Annex II to this Regulation. As a result, the corresponding amount shall no longer be available for granting direct payments.

*Amendment*

1. Before 1 August 2013, Member States may decide to make available as additional support for measures under rural development programming financed under the EAFRD as specified under Regulation (EU) No [...] [RDR], up to **20** % of their annual national ceilings for calendar years 2014 to 2019 as set out in Annex II to this Regulation. As a result, the corresponding amount shall no longer be available for granting direct payments.

*Justification*

*Member States should be able to allocate additionally up to 20% of their annual national budget to rural development, in order to strengthen rural development, both in the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy as well as within the broader perspective of regional development to which the EAFRD, included into the framework of the Common Provisions Regulation, contributes.*

**Amendment 15****Proposal for a regulation****Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1***Text proposed by the Commission*

2. *Before 1 August 2013, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania,*

*Amendment*

*deleted*

*Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United-Kingdom may decide to make available as direct payments under this Regulation up to 5 % of the amount allocated to support for measures under rural development programming financed under the EAFRD in the period 2015-2020 as specified under Regulation (EU) No [...] [RDR]. As a result, the corresponding amount shall no longer be available for support measures under rural development programming.*

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The EU support available for rural development should not be reduced as this could seriously hinder territorial cohesion, in particular in regions with a significant percentage of rural areas or rural areas lagging behind.*

#### **Amendment 16**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 1**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Member States may decide, before 1 August 2013, to apply the basic payment scheme at regional level. In that case they shall define the regions in accordance with objective and non-discriminatory criteria such as their agronomic **and** economic characteristics and their regional agricultural potential, or their institutional or administrative structure.

###### *Amendment*

1. Member States may decide, before 1 August 2013, to apply the basic payment scheme at regional level. In that case they shall define the regions in accordance with objective and non-discriminatory criteria such as their agronomic, economic **and environmental** characteristics and their regional agricultural potential, or their institutional or administrative structure. ***In order to avoid significant differences in the regional allocation of payments, each payment scheme and underlying definition shall be subject to an environmental and socio-economic ex-ante impact assessment.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*There is significant risk that local and regional development efforts would be hindered or restricted if historical payments that lead to an unfair and unsustainable distribution of resources would continue to be the baseline for further payments.*

#### **Amendment 17**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 5**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

5. The Member States shall notify the Commission by 1 August 2013 of the decision referred to in paragraph 1, together with the measures taken for the application of paragraphs 2 and 3.

###### *Amendment*

5. The Member States shall notify the Commission by 1 August 2013 of the decision referred to in paragraph 1, together with the measures taken for the application of paragraphs 2 and 3. ***The notification and all accompanying documents shall be made public in their entirety.***

Or. en

#### **Amendment 18**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Title III – chapter 2 - title**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

***Payment for agricultural practises beneficial for the climate and the environment***

###### *Amendment*

***Payments to establish advanced sustainable farming systems, environmental management and climate mitigation***

Or. en

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a regulation Article 28a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

#### **Article 28a**

*The implementation of payments for advanced sustainable farming systems, environmental management and climate mitigation at regional level, as provided for under Articles 20 and 29, may be accompanied by the introduction of territorial pacts signed between regional authorities and farmers, subject to the ceiling of 30 % stipulated in Article 33. Territorial pacts may lead to the implementation of major specific incentive-based measures, carried out collectively on eligible agricultural land and aiming at protecting water resources, biodiversity and soils, subject to local specificities and based on shared and measurable objectives.*

*(to be inserted as a new Article before Article 29)*

Or. en

## Amendment 20

### Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

1. Farmers entitled to a payment under the basic payment scheme referred to in Chapter 1 shall ***observe*** on their eligible hectares as defined in Article 25(2) ***the following agricultural practises beneficial for the climate and the environment:***

1. Farmers entitled to a payment under the basic payment scheme referred to in Chapter 1 shall ***adapt over the period between 2014 and 2020*** on their eligible hectares as defined in Article 25(2) ***a dynamic transition towards sustainable farming systems which respond to environmental, climatic, biodiversity, soil***

*and water management challenges in an integrated way, meaning:*

Or. en

*Justification*

*A shift to advanced sustainable farming systems is critical for sustainable territorial development in rural areas.*

**Amendment 21**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 29 – paragraph 1 – point a**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) to have **three** different crops on their arable land where the arable land of the farmer covers more than **3** hectares and is not entirely used for grass production (sown or natural), entirely left fallow or entirely cultivated with crops under water for a significant part of the year;

*Amendment*

(a) to have **four** different crops **in a rotation** on their arable land where the arable land of the farmer covers more than **10** hectares and is not entirely used for grass production (sown or natural), entirely left fallow or entirely cultivated with crops under water for a significant part of the year; **and**

Or. en

**Amendment 22**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 29 – paragraph 1 – point c**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(c) to **have** ecological **focus area** on their agricultural area.

*Amendment*

(c) to **establish an** ecological **infrastructure** on their agricultural area.

Or. en



## Amendment 23

### Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. Without prejudice to paragraphs 3 and 4 and to the application of financial discipline, linear reductions in accordance with Article 7, and any reductions and penalties imposed pursuant to Regulation (EU) No [...] [HZR], Member States shall grant the payment referred to in this Chapter to farmers observing those of the three practises referred to in paragraph 1 that are relevant for *them*, and in function of their compliance with Articles 30, 31 and 32.

*Amendment*

2. Without prejudice to paragraphs 3 and 4 and to the application of financial discipline, linear reductions in accordance with Article 7, and any reductions and penalties imposed pursuant to Regulation (EU) No [...] [HZR], Member States shall grant the payment referred to in this Chapter to farmers observing those of the three practises referred to in paragraph 1 that are relevant for *improving their farming and environmental management practices according to paragraph 1*, and in function of their compliance with Articles 30, 31 and 32.

Or. en

## Amendment 24

### Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 4 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*4a. Farmers complying with other agro-ecological systems on their farm which contribute significantly to reducing pesticide use, preservation and enhancement of soil fertility, and climate change mitigation shall be entitled to the payment referred to in this Chapter.*

Or. en

## Amendment 25

### Proposal for a regulation Article 30 – title

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Crop diversification

*Amendment*

Crop **rotation, crop** diversification **and cover crops**

Or. en

## Amendment 26

### Proposal for a regulation Article 30 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Where the arable land of the farmer covers more than **3** hectares and is not entirely used for grass production (sown or natural), entirely left fallow or entirely cultivated with crops under water for a significant part of the year, cultivation on the arable land shall consist of at least **three** different crops. None of those **three** crops shall cover less than **5 %** of the arable land and the main one shall not exceed **70 %** of the arable land.

*Amendment*

1. Where the arable land of the farmer covers more than **10** hectares and is not entirely used for grass production (sown or natural), entirely left fallow or entirely cultivated with crops under water for a significant part of the year, cultivation on the arable land shall consist of **a rotation of at least four different crops or fallow over four consecutive years**. None of those **four** crops shall cover less than **10 %** of the arable land and the main one shall not exceed **50 %** of the arable land. **Due to its positive impact on soil fertility and productivity, biannual grass-clover mixes may be integrated into the rotation.**

Or. en

### *Justification*

*In order to increase the environmental and socio-economic benefits of sound crop diversification (increasing choice of farming practices, stabilising the income of farmers, reduced use of pesticides), none of the crops shall cover less than 10% of the land and the main one shall not exceed 50%.*

## Amendment 27

### Proposal for a regulation Article 32 – title

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Ecological *focus area*

*Amendment*

Ecological *infrastructure*

Or. en

## Amendment 28

### Proposal for a regulation Article 32 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Farmers shall ensure that at least 7 % of their eligible hectares as defined in Article 25(2), excluding areas under permanent **grassland**, is ecological *focus area* such as land left fallow, terraces, landscape features, buffer strips and afforested areas as referred to in article 25(2)(b)(ii).

*Amendment*

1. Farmers shall ensure that at least 7 % of their eligible hectares as defined in Article 25(2), excluding areas under permanent **pasture**, is *used for* ecological **infrastructure including landscape elements** such as **hedges, stone walls**, land left fallow, **maintained** terraces **and semi-natural habitats**. **There shall be no re-seeding, ploughing, fertiliser or pesticide use. Harvesting, mowing and grazing at densities which do not lead to degradation of the sward may take place. When areas of mixed grassland, pasture or meadow are being newly established, appropriate leguminous crops can be incorporated into the species mix in pastures or meadows for grazing or mowing purposes,** landscape features, buffer strips and afforested areas as referred to in article 25(2)(b)(ii).

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The improvement of eco-system services and the development of ecological infrastructure are critical to sustainable rural development. Afforested areas should not be included here, but*

*solely semi-natural habitats or areas of land that have not been ploughed, sown, fertilised or sprayed. Existing landscape elements should be included into the calculation of areas of ecological infrastructure.*

## **Amendment 29**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 32 – paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1a. Ecological infrastructure areas include specific local and regional cultivation or land management practices supporting the transition process towards sustainable farming systems and improved environmental management, according to Articles 29, 30 and 31.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*The fostering of specific local and regional cultivation practices is central to sustainable territorial rural development.*

## **Amendment 30**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 32 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 55 to further define the types of ecological ***focus areas*** referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and to add and define other types of ecological ***focus areas*** that can be taken into account for the respect of the percentage referred to in that paragraph.

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 55 to further define the types of ecological ***infrastructure*** referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and to add and define other types of ecological ***infrastructure*** that can be taken into account for the respect of the percentage referred to in that paragraph.

Or. en

## Amendment 31

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 38 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Coupled support may be granted to the following sectors and productions: cereals, oilseeds, protein crops, grain legumes, flax, hemp, rice, nuts, ***starch potato***, milk and milk products, seeds, sheepmeat and goatmeat, beef and veal, olive oil, ***silk worms***, dried fodder, hops, sugar beet, cane and chicory, fruit and vegetables and short rotation coppice.

##### *Amendment*

Coupled support may be granted to the following sectors and productions: cereals, oilseeds, protein crops, grain legumes, flax, hemp, rice, nuts, milk and milk products, seeds, sheepmeat and goatmeat, beef and veal, olive oil, dried fodder, hops, sugar beet, cane and chicory, fruit and vegetables and short rotation coppice.

Or. en

## Amendment 32

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 38 – paragraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. Coupled support may only be granted to sectors or to regions of a Member State where specific types of farming or specific agricultural sectors undergo certain difficulties and are particularly important for economic and/or social and/or environmental reasons.

##### *Amendment*

2. Coupled support may only be granted to sectors or to regions of a Member State where specific types of farming or specific agricultural sectors undergo certain difficulties and are particularly important for economic and/or social and/or environmental reasons. ***It shall therefore be subject to a specific impact assessment carried out by the respective Member States and notified to the Commission.***

Or. en

## Amendment 33

### Proposal for a regulation Article 38 – paragraph 4

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

4. Coupled support may only be granted to the extent necessary to create an incentive to maintain current levels of production in the regions concerned.

#### *Amendment*

4. Coupled support may only be granted to the extent necessary to create an incentive to maintain current levels of production, ***sustainable farming practices and environmental management and farm employment***, in the regions concerned, ***in particular in areas facing natural constraints, such as island regions and mountainous areas, based on the conditions set in paragraph 2.***

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The specific challenges of areas facing natural constraints need to be duly taken into account.*