

E-4537/09EN

Answer given by Ms Fischer Boel  
on behalf of the Commission  
(30.10.2009)

The Informal meeting of the Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries in Brno in June 2009 dealt with the issue "Common Agricultural Policy post-2013: What future for direct payments" and in this context in particular with the differing levels of direct payments between different Member States.

As the Commission has declared in the in the 2008 'Health Check' of the 2003 reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), it is committed to thoroughly examine the possibilities for development of the direct payment system, which includes also addressing the question of the differing levels of such payments between Member States. For the post-2013 period, the Commission will study and evaluate different options for the reform of the direct payment system.

Furthermore, and in parallel with the discussion on the future CAP, the Commission is committed to further simplify direct payments and the CAP in general. In March 2009, the Commission adopted a Communication on Simplification of the CAP, which highlights the activities that have been carried out since 2005 and provides indications of the resulting reduction in administrative burden for farmers and administrations. The Communication also explores paths to further simplification actions in the future. Following the conclusions from the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of May 2009, the issue of CAP simplification will be further discussed in the November 2009 Council meeting.