In its Communication on food security, the Commission has committed to contribute to covering the production gap to address the expected global shortage of agricultural production especially as regards cereals, including wheat. The Commission swiftly adopted a package of short-term emergency measures. This included a derogation from the crop diversification and ecological focus area obligations for 2022, for beneficiaries receiving the greening payment under the Pillar I of the Common Agricultural Policy\(^1\) but not beneficiaries under rural development programs. Consequently, farmers are allowed in 2022 to take appropriate production decisions on land lying fallow including for forage production, unless they have taken commitments on this land under agri-environment schemes, which require the maintenance of this land as land laying fallow, for example.

As regards agri-environment schemes, the area concerned is more limited and these measures are targeting environmental commitments where the ban of production is not a general rule. Flexibility or derogation from the commitments under such measures would have had a negative effect on biodiversity and natural resources preservation without contributing significantly to increasing fodder availability. It has therefore not been granted.

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\(^1\) COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2022/484 of 23 March 2022 providing for derogations from Regulation (EU) N° 639/2014 as regards the implementation of certain conditions relating to the greening payment for claim year 2022.