



EU Bibliographies: Proposed reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

Standard Note: SN/IA/6554

Last updated: 21 May 2014

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Section International Affairs and Defence Section

This Note brings together documents relevant to the proposals to reform the Common Agricultural Policy and its scrutiny in the UK and EU. It is not an attempt to define policy in this area. For information on policy developments contact Emma Downing on extn 6787

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1 Background to the reform “package”.

The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future. Commission communication, 22 November 2010, [16348/2010](#), COM(2010)672.

The CAP towards 2020: meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future- Presidency conclusions, 18 March 2011, [7921/2011](#)

2 Proposed reform of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013

On 12 October 2011 The European Commission presented a “package” of legal proposals for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):

a) [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](#). 15396/2011, COM(2011)625. New version [15396/3/11](#) published 16 May 2012.

[Amendment to the Commission 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](#), 14483/12, COM(2012) 552, published 3 October 2012.

b) [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products \(Single CMO Regulation\)](#) 15397/2011, COM(2011)626.

[Amendment to the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products \(Single CMO Regulation\)](#), [COM\(2012\)535](#) was published on 25 September 2012.

c) [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\)](#) 15425/2011, COM(2011)627

[10878/1/12](#) -a Presidency consolidated revised text on Proposal on support for rural development (15425/2011) was issued on 14 June 2012.

[Amendment to the Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\)](#), 14329/12, COM(2012)553, published 3 October 2012.

d) [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy](#). 15426/2011, COM(2011)628

[Amendment to the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy](#) 14314/12, COM(2012)551 was published 1 October 2012.

e) [Proposal for a Council Regulation determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products](#). 15400/2011, COM(2011)629.

f) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 as regards the application of direct payments to farmers in respect of the year 2013. 15398/2011, COM(2011)630.

g) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers. 15399/2011, COM(2011)631

2.1 Treaty base

The proposals are all based on Articles 42 and 43 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Specifically:

Regulation establishing rules for direct payment to farmers (15396/2011); and Regulation establishing a common organisation of the market in agricultural products (15397/2011) are based on Articles 42 and 43(2);

Regulation on rural development (15425/2011) is based on Articles 42 and 43;

Regulation on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP (15426/2011),

Regulation amending regulation 73/2009 as regards the application of transitional measures in respect of the year 2013 (15398/2011), and Regulation modifying regulation 1234/2007 (Single CMO regulation) as regards the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers (15399/2011) are based on Article 43(2).

Regulation determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds (15400/2011) is based on Article 43(2).

2.2 Related material.

Material from EU institutions

Impact assessment accompanying the proposals. [SEC\(2011\)1153](#)

Summary of Impact Assessment [SEC\(2011\)1154](#)

[Annexes](#) to Impact assessment.

The European Commission website on the [Common Agricultural Policy after 2013](#).

[CAP Reform – an explanation of the main elements](#). European Commission Press Release MEMO/11/685. 12 October 2011.

[Concept paper](#) – May 2012, Agricultural Council – Greening

[CAP post-2013: Reports and studies](#).

European Parliament Library Briefing: [Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy](#).

[Papers](#) from Interparliamentary Committee meeting, European Parliament-national Parliaments on CAP Reform, Brussels, 25 June 2012

Material from UK Government

The relevant Government Department is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

[UK response to the Commission communication and consultation](#) “The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future” January 2011

DEFRA [Discussion paper on the impact in England of EU Commission regulatory proposals for Common Agricultural Policy reform, post 2013](#). 20 December 2011. (Consultation closed 5 March 2012).

DEFRA webpage on [Common Agricultural Policy reform](#).

DEFRA consultation on [Implementation of CAP Reform in England](#) (31 October – 28 November 2013). [Summary of responses and government response](#) published 19 December 2013.

Material from other organisations

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute [Impact of CAP Post-2013 Reforms on Agriculture in the UK](#) February 2013.

3 EU Scrutiny

The draft Regulations are subject to the Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP), formerly known as the co-decision procedure.(except for 15400/2011) This procedure is outlined in Standard Note SN/IA/2120 [The European Parliament: its role and powers](#). It is also explained with a graphic, on the [Europa website](#). 15400/2011 is subject to the non-legislative procedure¹.

3.1 European Parliament proceedings

Proposal establishing rules for direct payment to farmers (15396/11)

[Draft report](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos) published 30 May 2012.

EP Decision on the opening of, and on the mandate for, interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a regulation establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy. [T7-0084/2013](#)

Report [A7/362/2013](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos) published 5 November 2013.

EP [Legislative Resolution](#) passed in Plenary Session 20 November 2013.

¹ *Europa* defines non-legislative acts as delegated acts (Article 290 TFEU) of general application which supplement or amend certain non-essential elements of the legislative act. The power to adopt this type of act may be delegated to the Commission by the European Parliament or the Council.

Proposal on Common organisation of the Markets (15397/2011)

[Draft report](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Michel Dantin) published 5 June 2012.

European Parliament Decision of 13 March 2013 on the opening of, and on the mandate for, interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a regulation establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation). [T7-0085/2013](#).

Report [A7/366/2013](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Michel Dantin) published 6 November 2013.

EP [Legislative Resolution](#) passed in Plenary Session 20 November 2013.

Proposal on support for rural development (15425/2011)

[Draft report](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos) published 24 May 2012.

European Parliament decision of 13 March 2013 on the opening of, and on the mandate for, interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). [T7-0086/2013](#)

Report [A7/361/2013](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos) published 5 November 2013.

EP [Legislative Resolution](#) passed in Plenary Session 20 November 2013.

Proposal on financing, management and monitoring (15426/2011)

[Draft report](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via) published 30 May 2012.

European Parliament Decision of 13 March 2013 on the opening of, and on the mandate for, interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP. [T7-0087/2013](#)

Report [A7/363/2013](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via) published 5 November 2013.

EP [Legislative Resolution](#) passed in Plenary Session 20 November 2013.

Proposal on the application of direct payments in respect of the year 2013 (15398/2011)

Report [A7-0163/2012](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos) published 11 May 2012.

[Legislative resolution](#) adopted in the Plenary Session of the European Parliament 4 July 2012.

1st reading agreement between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament [PE-CONS 33/12](#), 6 July 2012. See also [Transitional measures in place ahead of the CAP reform](#) Council of Ministers Press release 10 July 2012.

Proposal on the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers (15399/2011)

Report [A7-0203/2012](#) by the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Rapporteur: Herbert Dorfmann) published 25 June 2012.

[Legislative resolution](#) adopted in the Plenary Session of the European Parliament 11 September 2012.

1st reading agreement between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, [PE-CONS 46/12](#), 24 September 2012.

3.2 Council of Ministers proceedings

The Proposals were discussed in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council [20 October 2011](#), [14 November 2011](#), [15 December 2011](#), [23 January 2012](#), [15 May 2012](#), [18 June 2012](#), [16 July 2012](#), [24 September 2012](#), [22 October 2012](#), [28 November 2012](#), [26 February 2013](#), [19 March 2013](#), [22 April 2103](#), [14 May 2013](#), [15 July 2013](#) and [24 September 2013](#). A Presidency progress report ([8949/2012](#)) was issued on 8 June 2012. A Presidency compromise text ([7539/13](#)) was issued on 19 March 2013. The main elements of the Council position (serving as the Presidency's mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament) were set out in [8005/13](#) on 27 March 2013.

[Political agreement](#) between the European parliament, Commission and Council on CAP reform was reached on 26 June 2013.

Main Proposals ([15396/2011](#), [15397/2011](#), [5425/2011](#) and [15426/2011](#)) adopted by the Council [16 December 2013](#) See also [Special report on CAP reform](#).

Proposal establishing rules for direct payment to farmers (15396/11)

A Presidency paper on the Basic Payment Scheme ([6638/13](#)) was issued on 20 February 2013.

Adopted as: [Regulation \(EU\) No 1307/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of [17 December 2013](#) establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No [637/2008](#) and Council Regulation (EC) No [73/2009](#) in OJL 347 of 20 December 2013.

Proposal on Common organisation of the Markets (15397/2011)

Adopted as: [Regulation \(EU\) No 1308/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of [17 December 2013](#) establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No [922/72](#), (EEC) No [234/79](#), (EC) No [1037/2001](#) and (EC) No [1234/2007](#) in OJL 347 of 20 December 2013.

Proposal on support for rural development (15425/2011)

Adopted as: Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 in OJL 347 of 20 December 2013.

Proposal on financing, management and monitoring (15426/2011)

A Presidency paper to clarify the position of the Council (6640/13) was issued on 20 February 2013.

Adopted as: Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 in OJL 347 of 20 December 2013.

Proposal determining measures on fixing aids and refunds (15400/2011)

Adopted as Council Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 of 16 December 2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products in OJL 346 of 20 December 2013.

Proposal on the application of direct payments in respect of the year 2013 (15398/2011)

Adopted as: Regulation (EU) No 671/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2012 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 as regards the application of direct payments to farmers in respect of the year 2013 in OJL 204 of 31 July 2012.

Proposal on the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers (15399/2011)

Adopted as: Regulation (EU) No 1028/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers, in OJL 316 of 14 November 2012.

3.3 Other EU institutions

European Economic and Social committee

Opinion on proposals establishing rules for direct payment to farmers (15396/2011), Common organisation of the markets (15397/2011), support for rural development (15425/2011), financing, management and monitoring (15426/2011), and application of direct payments in respect of the year 2013 (15398/2011) in OJC 191 of 29 June 2012.

Opinion on amended proposal 14483/12 (direct payments to farmers) in OJC 44 of 15 February 2013 p159.

Opinion on amended proposal COM(2012)535 (Common organisation of markets) in OJC 44 of 15 February 2013 p158.

Opinion on amended proposal 14329/12 (support for rural development) in OJC 44 of 15 February 2013 p160.

European Data Protection Supervisor

Opinion of the European Data Protection Supervisor on the legal proposals for the common agricultural policy after 2013 in [OJC 35](#) of 2 February 2012.

Committee of the Regions

Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on 'Legislative proposals on the reform of the common agricultural policy and rural development policy post-2013' in [OJC 225](#) of 27 July 2012

4 UK Parliament Scrutiny

For a description of the scrutiny process for EU documents within Parliament see [The European Scrutiny System in the House of Commons: a short guide for Members of Parliament by the staff of the European Scrutiny Committee](#) and [Scrutiny Flowchart](#) for House of Lords. For general background to the EU scrutiny see Research Paper 05/85 [The UK Parliament and European Business](#).

4.1 House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee

The reform proposals were all considered in European Scrutiny Committee 47th Report [HC 428-xlii 2010-12](#) 23 November 2011 when the proposals on Common organisation of the Markets (15397/2011), financing, management and monitoring (15426/2011), and the application of direct payments in respect of the year 2013 (15398/2011) were cleared.

Proposals for establishing rules for direct payment to farmers (15396/2011), support for rural development (15425/2011), Common organisation of the Markets (15397/2011), and financing, management and monitoring (15426/2011) were further considered in European Scrutiny Committee 20th Report [HC 86-xix 2012-13](#) 21 November 2012, European Scrutiny Committee 32nd Report [HC 86-xxxii 2012-13](#), 13 February 2013 and European Scrutiny Committee 1st Report [HC 83-i 2013-14](#), 8 May 2013.

The amended proposals 14483/2012, COM(2012)535, 14329/2012 and 14314/2012 were considered in European Scrutiny Committee 16th Report [HC 86-xvi 2012-13](#) 24 October 2012 when they were cleared.

The reform package as a whole was debated In European Committee A: [Common Agricultural Policy Reform](#) 31 January 2012 and on the Floor of the House on [18 June 2013](#), HC Deb c 763-86.

Proposal establishing rules for direct payment to farmers (15396/11)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29 October 2011.

Ministerial correspondence dated [8 November 2012](#), [9 December 2012](#), [2 February 2013](#), [7 March 2013](#), [2 April 2013](#) and [9 July 2013](#).

Amended Proposal (14483/2012)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 17 October 2012.

Proposal on Common organisation of the Markets (15397/2011)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29 October 2011.

Ministerial correspondence dated [8 November 2012](#), [9 December 2012](#), [2 February 2013](#), [7 March 2013](#), [2 April 2013](#) and [9 July 2013](#).

Amended proposal (COM(2012)535)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 17 October 2012.

Proposal on support for rural development (15425/2011)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29 October 2011.

Ministerial correspondence dated [8 November 2012](#), [9 December 2012](#), [2 February 2013](#), [7 March 2013](#), [2 April 2013](#) and [9 July 2013](#).

Amended proposal (14329/2012)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 17 October 2012.

Proposal on financing, management and monitoring (15426/2011)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29 October 2011.

Ministerial correspondence dated [8 November 2012](#), [9 December 2012](#), [2 February 2013](#), [7 March 2013](#), [2 April 2013](#) and [9 July 2013](#).

Amended proposal (14314/2012)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 12 October 2012.

Proposal for fixing certain aids and refunds (15400/2011)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29 October 2011.

Proposal on the application of direct payments in respect of the year 2013 (15398/2011)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29 October 2011.

Ministerial correspondence dated [30 May 2012](#) and [22 July 2012](#)

European Scrutiny Committee 4th Report [HC 86-iv 2012-13](#) 14 June 2012.

Proposal on the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers (15399/2011)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29 October 2011.

4.2 House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

- a) Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee: [The Common Agricultural Policy after 2013](#) 5 April 2011, HC 671 2010-12.

The Common Agricultural Policy after 2013: Government response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2010–12. 29 June 2011. HC 1356 2010-12.

See also debate on the Report: [Common Agricultural Policy](#) HC Deb 8 March 2012 c343-388WH

- b) Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee [Greening the Common Agricultural Policy](#), 23 May 2012 ,HC 170 2012-13

Greening the Common Agricultural Policy: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2012-13, 23 October 2012, HC 654 2012-13

See also debate on the Report: [Common Agricultural Policy](#) HC Deb 1 November 2012 c133-172WH.

- c) Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee: [Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in England 2014-2020](#) 3 December 2013, HC 745 2013-14.

7th Special Report - Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in England 2014-2020: [Government Response](#) to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2013–14 20 February 2014, HC 1088 2013-14.

[CAP implementation 2014 -2020](#). Letter from the Rt Hon Owen Paterson 19 December 2013.

4.3 House of Lords

The proposals were sifted to EU sub-Committee D Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy in October 2011.

Letter from the Chairman of HL Select Committee on the European Union to Commissioner Ciolos, Commissioner for Agriculture dated 26 January 2011 [The CAP Towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future](#) COM (2010) 672

[One-off Oral Evidence Session with Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP](#) 22 May 2013.

[One-off Oral Evidence Session with Peter Kendall, Martin Haworth and David Baldock](#) 16 September 2013.

[One-off Oral Evidence Session with Mr Gwilym Jones](#) 16 September 2013.

General reports.

European Union Committee *Innovation in EU agriculture*. [HL Paper 171 2010-12](#). Published 7 July 2011.

European Union Committee, [Summary](#) of Seminar: "Innovation in EU agriculture" held on 30 November 2011

European Union Committee: *Leaving a bitter taste? The EU Sugar Regime* HL Paper 44 2012-13. Published 4 September 2012. Debated in Grand Committee HL Deb 3 Jun 2013 c148-168GC.

See also the European Union Committee's webpage [Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) Reform](#).

5 Devolved assemblies and executives

5.1 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Executive

Consultation on EU Commission proposals for Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform post 2013 [Consultation Paper](#) November 2011.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: [Consultation on Policy Options Arising from the Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy \(Pillar I Direct Payments\)](#) October 2013. Consultation closed 17 January 2014.

Northern Ireland Assembly

Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development: [Position Paper on CAP Reform](#) September 2011. [Revised Position Paper](#): EU Proposals CAP reform. December 2011.

NIA Research and Information Service Research paper 136/13 [CAP Reform 2014–20:EU Agreement and Implementation in the UK and in Ireland](#). 20 November 2013.

5.2 Scotland

Scottish Government

[Consultation on the European Commission's proposals for the future Common Agricultural Policy. Background details document](#). January 2012.

[CAP Reform Consultation Analysis Report and Consultation Responses](#) 30 October 2012

Scottish Government webpage on [Common Agricultural Policy](#).

Scottish Government: [Consultation on Future CAP direct payments in Scotland from 2015](#). (Launched 17 December 2013).

Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee (RACCE) [Report on Common Agricultural Policy](#). 27 April 2012 (including responses from UK Government 18 May 2012 and from the European Commission 1 June 2012).

Scottish Parliament Information Centre [CAP Reform: Proposals for 2014-20](#). SPICe Briefing Paper 11/06. 28 January 2011.

5.3 Wales

Welsh Government

Welsh Government Written Statement: [Reform to the Common Agriculture Policy](#) 21 October 2011.

Welsh Government: [The Common Agricultural Policy Reform: Direct Payments to Farmers: Next Steps](#) 6 February 2013. [Consultation analysis](#) June 2013.

Welsh Government: [Rural Development Plan 2014-2020: Next Steps](#). 31 January 2013. [Consultation analysis](#) August 2013.

Welsh Government webpage [Common Agriculture Policy](#)

National Assembly for Wales

Environment and Sustainability Committee, Common Agricultural Policy Task and Finish Group [Inquiry into proposed reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy](#) webpage. (Includes consultation documents and responses, Inquiry report and response of Welsh Government).

6 Comment

6.1 Parliamentary questions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the potential impact on farmers of proposed reforms to the common agricultural policy; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Paice: The European Commission published its draft regulatory proposals concerning the 2014-20 common agricultural policy on the 12 October, including an extensive impact assessment. The proposals were discussed for the first time in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 20 October 2011, which the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), and I attended.

The EU has an important opportunity to agree the genuine reforms needed to meet the long-term demands of the 21st Century. We are disappointed at the lack of ambition the Commission has shown in their CAP proposals. We do not believe the proposals will benefit the environment or have the long-term competitiveness of the industry in mind. They root agriculture in the past and fall short of addressing future challenges and opportunities ahead. The proposals fail to encourage the innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable actions that are essential—and in some ways work against these aims.

DEFRA is currently considering the Council's documents in detail and will, as usual, meet with key stakeholder groups to assess the potential impact these may have on UK farm businesses. We will continue to discuss the proposals with devolved Ministers, and look forward to further discussions at European level. We will work constructively with member states, the Commission and—for the first time on CAP Reform—with the European Parliament to deliver the ambitious reform we believe is necessary.

Negotiations on the proposals are under way but this is the start of a long and complex process which will take place alongside negotiations on the next Multi Annual Financial Framework 2014-20.

HC Deb 24 November 2011 c553W

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether farmers in stewardship schemes will be exempted from implementing

additional environmental measures in return for payments under the common agricultural policy scheme.

Mr Paice: One of our stated principles for greening and CAP Reform is that there must be recognition of the efforts of those farmers who have already committed to environmental measures under Pillar 2.

In the Pillar 1 context we have discussed the possibility that farmers in agri-environment schemes could be exempt from any greening requirement. But this is only one of a number of options under discussion and agreement remains some way off. At the last Agriculture Council the Commission floated the possibility that agri-environment schemes and other certified schemes could, under certain circumstances, be considered as fulfilling one or several of the greening measures.

We welcome this initiative from the Commission as the basis of further discussion. However, if we are to make the cost effective use of Pillar 2 resources to pay for a range of rural development measures it is important we do not pay twice for those costs and activities already paid for in Pillar 1. All qualifying schemes should also be of sufficient environmental merit.

HC Deb 11 June 2012 C310W

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her Department's policy is on the three crop rule for arable farmers proposed as part of reform of the common agricultural policy; [111402]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the effect on small farm businesses of the three crop rule for arable farmers proposed as part of reform of the common agricultural policy; and if she will make a statement. [111403]

Mr Paice: We recognise the Commission is trying to address concerns over the adverse environmental impact of continuous monocultures. However, as the Commission itself recognises, the environmental and agronomic benefits of this measure are severely limited by the inability to require rotation rather than diversification because of the practical difficulties of administering and enforcing this as an annual measure in pillar I. We share the concerns expressed by a wide cross section of stakeholders that the crop diversification proposal may instead lead to unintended and perverse consequences, give rise to agronomic issues and affect farm management practices and production for the market.

Removing this measure from the proposals and seeking to address its objectives through alternative means may be a more effective way forward. However, the Government, along with many member states, would prefer to see the objective of greening achieved through both a menu-based approach and recognition of involvement in existing schemes.

...

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on provision of greater flexibility in the greening element of pillar I in the common agricultural policy proposals;

(2) whether the ecological focus areas of the common agricultural policy proposals will only apply to farms larger than 20 hectares;

(3) with reference to the common agricultural policy proposals, whether arable land under 50 hectares will be exempt from crop diversification plans where 80 per cent of eligible agricultural area is occupied by grassland, pasture or permanent crops;

(4) with reference to the common agricultural policy proposals, whether direct payments will be capped; and at what levels.

Mr Paice: Negotiations on the Commission's common agricultural policy proposals, including those on capping direct payments, are progressing but it is not yet clear what eventual form they may take, which measures will survive debate intact, and which will be adjusted. It is therefore too early to detail how these measures might apply within the UK.

On greening we remain of the view that a strong pillar 2 is the best way to deliver meaningful environmental outcomes, as programmes are multi-annual, contractual and can be tailored to local conditions. Therefore the most flexible approach would be

to transfer the full greening component from pillar I to pillar II, ring-fenced to deliver agri-environment measures equivalent to greening.

If there is to be greening of pillar 1 it has to be environmentally effective with practical, effective and simple provisions with flexibility for member states to choose from a framework of options which are most appropriate to meet their key environmental objectives.

We welcome the Commission's recent non-paper introducing some additional flexibility to its greening proposals, including changes to qualifying thresholds for the greening measures, as a step in the right direction. We will continue to work with like-minded member states to secure greater flexibility in recognition of member states' agricultural and agronomic diversity.

HC Deb 18 June 2012 c734-6W

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he has assessed the potential effect on (a) each agricultural sector, (b) upland hill farm incomes and (c) agri-environment schemes of (i) any delay in agreement on the EU budget and (ii) the time taken to reform the common agricultural policy

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential impact on (a) farming in the UK and (b) reform of the common agricultural policy of any failure to agree an EU budget.

Mr Heath: If there is a significant delay in agreement to the EU budget for 2014-2020 there is the potential for it to have a knock-on effect to the common agricultural policy (CAP) post 2013. The European Commission's aim is to implement the reformed CAP by January 2014. However, this has always been a very ambitious target and the UK has consistently called for sufficient time to implement CAP reform successfully.

On that basis the UK will continue to work proactively with the European Commission to make sure CAP implementation happens at the earliest appropriate date and to ensure that there are the necessary transition arrangements in place where they are needed. This means legislation which enables a smooth transition between programmes with minimal disruption so we can continue payments to all types of farming.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the number of farmers reliant on agri-environmental schemes for income; and what consideration he has given to measures to support their livelihoods in the event that a reformed common agricultural policy does not enter into force on 1 January 2014.

Mr Heath: As at 24 September there were 53,717 farmers in England's agri-environment schemes. EU rules require that payments under these agreements can cover only additional costs and income foregone resulting from the commitment made, including transaction costs. These payments contain no element of income support.

The EU Commission and Council have an ambition to secure agreement on a new rural development regulation by the summer of 2013 in order to allow implementation of the new programme from 1 January 2014. However, it is likely that negotiations could last well into 2013 and therefore implementation may be delayed.

DEFRA is working to prepare for a planned transition from the current Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to a new programme (2014-20) to reduce the impact on the farming and forestry sectors as well as wider rural business and rural communities. DEFRA is keeping key stakeholders regularly informed regarding the transition to the next programming period.

I will continue to work proactively with the European Commission to make sure CAP implementation happens at the earliest appropriate date and to ensure that there are the necessary arrangements in place to secure a smooth transition.

HC Deb 21 November 2012 c504-5W

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his top priorities for reform of the common agricultural policy are.

Mr Heath: The common agricultural policy (CAP) budget needs to see very significant reductions focused on Pillar 1. The CAP needs to help achieve an efficient and responsive agricultural sector in the EU and globally. In that context the UK's key aims for the UK's CAP reform negotiations are:

To increase the resilience, market orientation and international competitiveness of EU agriculture;

To improve CAP'S capacity to deliver environmental outcomes; and

To simplify CAP for farmers and authorities.

HC Deb 27 November 2012 c302W

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2012, *Official Report*, column 303W, on the common agricultural policy, what are the proposed amendments in relation to the active farmer test which are expected to reduce implementation burdens.

Mr Heath: The European Commission's active farmer test included an income check which would require that paying agencies collect and thoroughly examine each applicant's financial records to establish whether direct payment receipts amounted to more than 5% of total income from non-agricultural activities. This income test would be prohibitively expensive and administratively complex to implement, without providing any discernable benefit to farming or the EU budget.

This Government, working closely with like-minded member states, has successfully negotiated the removal of the requirement for an income check from the presidency text. Although not yet finalised, this is good progress towards simplifying the European Commission's proposals. We will continue to work hard to secure further much-needed reductions in unnecessary bureaucracy across the whole of the common agricultural policy reform package.

HC Deb 13 December 2012 c465W

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider applying an upper limit on the amount of payments given to landowners under the reformed common agricultural policy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord De Mauley): The Government are required to pay common agricultural policy (CAP) subsidies to those who claim and meet the relevant criteria. The Government are opposed to the European Commission's proposals for the capping of direct payments to large beneficiaries as this provides an incentive for large farms to split into smaller holdings in order to avoid the capping threshold.

HL Deb 4 March 2013 cWA361

6.2 Debates

Adjournment Debate: [Common Agricultural Policy Reform](#). HC Deb 12 February 2013 c830-838

Adjournment debate [CAP Budget](#). HC Deb 26 November 2013 c25-33WH.

6.3 Ministerial statements

Extract from Statement following Agriculture and Fisheries Council October 2012:

On agriculture business, the Council discussed the Commission's proposal under CAP reform that member states should all move towards flat rate per hectare direct payments at a national or regional level (internal convergence); an issue which was last debated in April 2012. This is a major political issue for many member states, and also has direct relevance to those parts of the UK which do not yet have a per hectare payment system. The Commission (Commissioner Ciolos) argued that for CAP reform to be credible, direct payments had to move away from historic allocations. The Commission would consider alternative models as long as they delivered significant convergence during the next financing period. All member states accepted the need for some internal convergence of payments, with an emphasis on national flexibility over the pace and detailed steps towards convergence. The presidency noted the discussion and variety of views without giving an indication of next steps.

The presidency sought views on whether the proposed young farmer's scheme in pillar one of the CAP should be voluntary or mandatory. The Council debate was split between those who wanted to leave it to member states to decide, and those who wanted, or could accept, a mandatory scheme in pillar one. The UK and like-minded member states argued for a flexible approach.

The presidency sought views on whether recognition of agricultural producer organisations should be mandatory for member states. France, Spain, Hungary and Portugal were in favour of mandatory recognition of extending producer organisations' rights to all agricultural sectors. In advance of the Council, the UK, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Sweden and the Czech Republic tabled a joint paper calling for CAP tools to promote greater market orientation, while maintaining a safety net.

The Commission presented its proposal on transparency of data on CAP beneficiaries, under which names and payment details would be made publically available, and which is intended to reintroduce greater transparency following a 2010 European Court of Justice ruling.

HC Deb 2 Nov 2012 c27WS

Extract from Statement following Agriculture and Fisheries Council November 2012:

The substantive business of the Council began with a lunch for agriculture Ministers during which we discussed the topic, proposed by the presidency, of "the current context of CAP reform". In the course of discussion it became clear that a significant number of member states did not share the presidency's view that agreement of a "partial general approach" on the CAP reform proposals could be achieved at the December Council. The presidency accordingly indicated that they would instead provide a report of the progress made on the reform package.

Discussion in the formal session of Council covered three aspects of the CAP reform package, addressing a series of questions posed by the presidency to guide discussion.

On greening of direct payments, the presidency sought views on the concept of equivalence, governing any flexibility accorded to member states on how they implemented the requirements. All agreed that an equivalence regime had to be simple, transparent and efficient. Some member states highlighted the need for some form of ex ante approval process to ensure that "equivalent" measures implemented would not subsequently be deemed insufficient by auditors. Several member states stated that it was important to avoid double funding of the same actions through both direct payments, and rural development funding, but there was little clarity on how this would be achieved.

On the regulation governing the Single Common Market Organisation the discussion focused on whether to retain the date of 2015 for ending beet sugar production quota, as agreed in previous reforms, and on vine planting rights. On sugar, some member states wanted to keep to the original agreement and end quotas in 2015, most beet-producing countries wanted to maintain quota until at least 2020 and those countries which conceded quota previously argued to have it returned. The Commission (Ciolos) held firm on its proposal. Member states also raised aspects of the regulation they were unhappy with. These included milk quotas, vine planting rights, marketing standards, reference prices and producer organisations.

On the rural development regulation, member states raised important outstanding issues. Most member states felt this was the closest regulation to agreement but more work was needed on several detailed aspects.

HC Deb18 Dec 2012 cc88-90WS

Extract from Statement following Agriculture and Fisheries Council 19 March 2013:

The main business of the Council was to agree Council's position on the four regulations which set out the rules for the common agricultural policy (CAP) over the 2014-20 financial period; and agreement was reached on this late on Tuesday evening.

I am pleased to report that many of the key negotiating objectives for the UK were secured. I worked closely with all the devolved Administrations, and as a result we successfully secured key changes to address concerns for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales on issues such as internal convergence—the rules governing the move from historically based to area-based payments for those regions which have not already achieved that transition—and the designation of areas of natural constraint; and in particular, a change which was designed to clarify that implementation decisions on all aspects of the CAP can be taken at regional level. We will continue to represent the interests of the whole of the UK throughout the continuing discussions on the legislation, and in the negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament.

I made it clear that the Commission's proposed "greening" of the CAP, which will involve part of the subsidy envelope being paid on the basis of compliance with environmental measures, should be delivered through a simple system, to achieve environmental benefits without imposing unnecessary costs on farmers, and to secure value for taxpayers. Council agreed to include an option for member states to design their own certification scheme to deliver the Commission's "greening" outcomes, which has the potential to simplify implementation significantly, for both farm business and the paying agency.

I was disappointed that the majority of member states were content to allow farmers to be paid twice under two different budgets for delivering the same environmental benefit; but compromises were necessary, and this now forms part of the position. I made it clear that I shared the European Parliament's opposition to this approach.

Although several member states wanted to extend sugar beet quotas to 2020, I worked with other member states to persuade the Council to agree that they will end in 2017. I am disappointed that they will continue beyond the date previously set for them to end but we have achieved a compromise and fought off calls for the end to be in 2020. The result is that sugar beet quotas will finally be scrapped benefiting consumers and our food processing industries. It is also important that we ensure availability of cane sugar supplies to allow cane refineries to compete on an equal footing; and I am determined to work with the Commission to persuade them to ensure fair treatment for cane sugar refiners.

The Council concluded that the ceiling for coupled payments in each member State—effectively, the proportion of their CAP subsidy envelope which can be linked to production—should increase from that proposed by the Commission. Under the proposals, member states, including the UK, which have made the most progress in decoupling payments, will be allowed to pay up to 7% of their direct payment budget as coupled payments. The remaining member states will be allowed up to 12%. I was disappointed that the Council proposed that coupled payments continue, and that different levels of flexibility should be allowed to different member states, but the agreement is a clear improvement on the European Parliament's proposal for 15% or even 18%.

The presidency had mistakenly removed from its proposed compromise on the rural development regulation, wording which is relevant to the calculation of a portion of the UK's rebate. I made it clear that it was essential for this mistake to be corrected, and the presidency ensured that it was corrected in the compromise further changes tabled on the second day. Following objections from a few member states, the presidency maintained the text with the necessary wording, but put the article in square brackets and referred it for resolution in the framework of the Council

deliberation on the EU own resource decision. However, at my insistence they also made it clear that this issue needed to be resolved before the rural development regulation could be agreed.

I and other Ministers successfully argued against pressure from some member states to extend the use of market intervention. Reducing market intervention has helped to keep Europe on the path towards a more competitive farming sector, with less of a distorting impact of subsidy.

HC Deb 26 Mar 2013 cc88-90WS

Extract from Statement following Agriculture and Fisheries Council June 2013:

The Irish presidency's objective for council was to obtain political agreement from member states on the four regulations that set out the rules for the common agricultural policy (CAP) over the 2014-20 financial period. An agreement was reached on a revised mandate late on Tuesday night. On the basis of that mandate, the presidency was then able to reach an outline agreement with the European Parliament on Wednesday 26 June.

The UK agreed to the mandate on the direct payments, rural development and the horizontal regulations. Overall I do not think the CAP package represents genuine reform. However, thanks to our efforts, working with other like-minded member states, it is in a much better state than the original proposals. By agreeing a deal on these regulations we have provided certainty for farmers and delivery bodies.

On the direct payments regulation, I argued strongly on the importance of flexibility for member states to deliver the Commission's "greening" proposals, if they wish to, through national certification schemes, allowing all the regions of the UK the possibility to achieve a better balance between costs and environmental benefits than if we were to apply the measures set out in the Commission's original proposal. On coupled support, the prospect of return to tobacco subsidies has been successfully resisted. However, it is disappointing that there is not a common set of rules for member states and there will be an opportunity to increase the use of coupled schemes. This is a backward step as EU agriculture has made good progress in phasing out subsidy linked to production. In terms of simplification there will be a mandatory active farmer test but we successfully negotiated this should only be based on assessing against a much shorter list of business types. In addition, the small farmer measure will also be voluntary though the young farmer provisions ended up as mandatory.

On rural development, the agreed regulation will enable all regions of the UK to deliver environmental benefits and rural economic growth through their rural development programmes. A solution was found which removes the threat of farmers being paid twice, once under each pillar of the CAP, for carrying out the same environmental measures. Member states will also have to spend at least 30% of their rural development budget on environmental measures. This is important to help support farmers in their crucial role in enhancing and protecting the natural environment.

On the horizontal (finance and control) regulation, there was the inclusion of some UK-inspired simplifications. This includes on areas such as audit provisions, having a longer transition period for mapping requirements under the greening measures, and a more proportionate approach on penalties. The ability to use a monthly average euro to sterling exchange rate may also help give more certainty to farmers and paying agencies who decide to use this option.

Together with Germany I abstained in the vote on the single common market organisation (single CMO). In an attempt to secure agreement with the European Parliament, changes were introduced which did not continue on the trajectory of reform. Market intervention is unnecessary, costly, and should only be used in times of genuine crisis as it has negative effects on farmers' abilities to respond to market signals and consumer demand. While end dates have been set for production quotas for sugar beet and planting rights for vines, these have been extended beyond dates previously agreed. Nor were adequate safeguards introduced for the sugar refinery sector. This is bad for businesses and consumers, and will keep prices artificially high. In addition, I was unhappy with the move to allow the European Parliament's

involvement in decisions on reference prices and intervention prices that was part of the final agreement. I believe this does not adhere to the treaty on the functioning of the European Union principles on the balance of responsibilities between the Council and the European Parliament. It was right that the UK took a principled stand. Throughout the negotiations, I worked closely with all of the devolved Administrations and, as a result, secured outcomes that successfully address some of their key concerns. Most importantly, I achieved a statement from the European Commission which acknowledges that all four regulations can be implemented regionally, in line with the UK's devolution arrangements. I also obtained a smoother transition than in the Commission's original text from historical to area-based direct payments, a switch that the devolved Administrations have yet to make. Finally, I was able to ensure that the text included a provision giving them flexibility to utilise their regional reserves to top-up payments to new entrants to farming, an issue which was particularly important to the Scottish Government.

HC Deb 1 Jul 2013 c 28-29WS

Statement on Common Agricultural Policy in England 19 December 2013:

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr Owen Paterson): Today I am publishing the Government's response to the recent public consultation on the implementation of the common agricultural policy (CAP) in England. This will determine how we distribute £15 billion of funds over the next CAP period. It will see us investing at least £3.5 billion in rural development schemes, of which over £3 billion will be spent on improving the environment.

The decisions I am announcing are:

12% will be transferred from farmers' pillar 1 direct payments to pillar 2 rural development. This money will improve the environment, grow the rural economy and create jobs.

A review will be held in 2016 into the demand for agri-environment schemes and the competitiveness of English agriculture. This is with the intention of moving to a 15% transfer rate from pillar 1 direct payments to support the final two years of the pillar 2 rural development programme.

5% of the new rural development programme funding will be allocated to the local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) through the growth programme. In total 13% of rural development funds will be spent on growth-focused schemes, including LEADER and farming competitiveness. I will ensure that there is a meaningful role for LEPs to help deliver growth through all of these elements of the programme.

The new CAP greening requirements will be implemented through the basic measures set out in the EU regulation. We will work with interested groups on how we apply the ecological focus area options to deliver real benefits for pollinators without adding complexity.

We will help upland farmers by equalising the upland and lowland direct payment rates. We will take a decision about the moorland rate in spring 2014. This will allow us to carry out further modelling of the impact on upland farms.

We will keep the implementation of direct payments as simple as possible by applying the minimum reduction on basic payments over €150,000 and keeping rules on the new active farmer test to a minimum.

Having considered carefully the wide range of views expressed through the consultation, I believe that this package delivers better value for taxpayers, is fair to English farmers and supports this Government's commitment to improve our natural environment. Environmental schemes will get a higher proportion of the rural development budget than now.

In addition to making ecological focus areas deliver benefits for pollinators, my Department will work closely with farming and environmental organisations on how the Campaign for the Farmed Environment will deliver targets at local level for protecting watercourses, providing habitat for farmland birds, wildlife and pollinators. We will review the success of this at the end of 2015.

Rural business schemes have already successfully transformed the prospects of thousands of businesses and farms, created 8,500 rural jobs across the country, safeguarding another 9,700. We want to build on this track record of success.

Within a smaller overall CAP budget these decisions will help to grow the rural economy and improve the environment.

HC Deb 19 Dec 2013 c125-126WS

6.4 Early Day Motions

EU Single Farm payment

Session: 2013-14 Date tabled: 11.07.2013

Primary sponsor: John Mann

Sponsors: David Anderson, Linda Riordan, Ian Mearns, Alex Cunningham, Natascha Engel

That this House notes that the reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy subsidies were settled in Luxembourg on 26 June 2013; understands that the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, blocked proposals to limit the payments made under the Single Farm Payment to the very richest farmers; further notes that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions lives on an estate which has received 1,517,535 euros over a 10-year period in funding from the EU whilst the same Minister has cut benefits to some of the neediest in the UK; expresses disappointment that the subsidy system will continue to disadvantage those with small to medium-sized farms; shares the belief of the National Trust and the RSPB that the Government's blocking of subsidy reforms is disastrous for farmers who help to preserve threatened species and beautiful landscapes; and calls on the Government to reconsider its position on farming subsidies and to shift its support from the richest landowners to farmers with smaller holdings and those who work to the benefit of their local environment.

6.5 EurActiv

EurActiv is an independent organisation which runs a website specialising in EU news and analysis.

[CAP reform 2014-2020](#). Published 26 October 2011, updated 11 July 2013.

[Cioloş promotes ties between farmers, consumers in CAP reform](#) 21 September 2012

[No more blank cheques for agriculture](#) 16 November 2012

[Cioloş joins environmentalists in defending greener CAP](#) 14 December 2012

[Farmers cultivate support to protect CAP budget](#) 7 February 2013

[Greener CAP is a good deal for both farmers and the environment](#) 13 February 2013

[Fate of green CAP plans hangs on Parliament](#) 15 February 2013

[After landmark CAP vote, the hard work begins](#) 14 March 2013

[Sugar mounds and wine lakes? Not likely, quota advocates say](#) 15 March 2013

[EU ministers give farm policy final political seal](#) 17 December 2013

6.6 UK Newspaper articles

[“Food prices to rise under new EU set-aside plans”](#) *The Daily Telegraph* 6 October 2011

Mark Tran, [“EU agriculture policy 'still hurting farmers in developing countries'”](#), *The Guardian*, 11 October 2011.

Clive Aslet, [“So what does the EU think farming is for?”](#) *The Daily Telegraph* 12 October 2011

[“EU reforms will cap money for large landowners”](#) *The Daily Telegraph* 12 October 2011

John Vidal, [“Europe has blown its chance to reform the common agricultural policy”](#) *The Guardian* 13 October 2011.

[“Arguments over Europe could destroy British wildlife”](#). *The Daily Telegraph* 20 November 2012

George Monbiot, [A euros 50bn bung that enriches landowners and kills wildlife](#): The EU's farm subsidies are a modern equivalent of feudal aid. As Europe suffers under austerity, it's right to call for reform. *The Guardian* 27 November 2012.