



Climate action and the EU's future rural development policy: state of play

OSCAR workshop

Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann, DG AGRI unit G1

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<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/50-years-of-cap>



Policy negotiations: formal process, formal progress

Council

- Extensive discussions of RD proposals in Council Working Groups, Special Committee on Agriculture
- Disagreements narrowed down to relatively few areas
- Links to discussions on Pillar I (e.g. greening), Common Provisions Regulation, MFF

European Parliament (expected)

- Agriculture Committee to vote January 2013
- Plenary session to vote March 2013



Robust maintenance of climate-related objectives / priorities in negotiations

Climate change mitigation / adaptation as **cross-cutting objective** in all rural development programmes (RDPs)

Most relevant **priorities**:

4. Restoring, preserving & enhancing **ecosystems** dependent on agriculture and forestry, with a focus on:

- biodiversity; water management; soil management

5. Promoting **resource-efficiency** and supporting the shift towards a **low-carbon and climate-resilient economy** in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors, with a focus on:

- efficiency in water use; efficiency in energy use; renewable energy / bioeconomy; cutting nitrous oxide & methane emissions; carbon sequestration



Climate action must not be an ambassador for "hidden" agendas

Push from MS for higher **co-financing rates** for climate-related operations

Danger of "**climate change cupboard**" approach inside which "anything goes" – just to reduce MS' own spending

Need to **genuinely address climate change** through strategic programming



Measures: some points of ongoing discussion

Agri-environment-climate, Water Framework Directive / Natura payments

- Baseline / relationship to "greening" in Pillar I

Forestry-related measures:

- Support for state-owned forests as long as these managed by private entity (possibly municipality in some cases)?

Particular conditions concerning investments in irrigation



Investments in irrigation: more detail (art. 46.3)

Attempt at linking to Water Framework Directive, distinguishing problematic from non-problematic cases

Required: presence of River Basin Management Plan

Required: water metering (can be supported as part of investment)

Investments in **existing network**:

- minimum water efficiency gains
- real reduction in water use if water body concerned without good status – but also economic benefit to farmer

Net extensions to irrigated area:

- not eligible for support when water body without good status?
- environmental analysis in any case



Programming: practicalities

Partnership Agreements: in preparation

Programmes

- Managing authorities already reflecting
- Conference on "successful programming" 6-7 December
- Tight timetable!





A Partnership between
Europe and Farmers

Thank you!

