

CAP Reform post 2013

Questions

December 2011

Discussion Paper - Questionnaire

There are seven main questions that we are seeking views on – one for each of the regulatory proposals. An eighth question provides the opportunity for you to express your views on any area that you do not feel is covered here. You can respond to all of these or if you prefer, only those that interest you. Following some of the questions are a number of further queries that you may like to consider providing your views on within your response.

Q1: What are your views regarding the direct payments proposals?

The following are suggestions of things you may wish to include within your response:

- i. What do you think about the proposed structure of a basic payment and additional tiers?
- ii. Do you support the idea of a small farmer scheme?
- iii. What do you think about the proposals to ‘top up’ young farmers’ payments for up to five years?
- iv. What do you think about limiting payments to ‘active farmers’?
- v. What do you think a ‘minimum level of agricultural activity’ should look like?
- vi. What do you think about the proposal capping the Basic Payment Scheme; are the progressive reductions and the levels identified appropriate and do you think salaries should be taken into account?
- vii. What do you think about the proposal to abolish existing SPS flat rate entitlements and establish new flat rate entitlements?
- viii. What do you think about the requirement to have claimed at least one hectare under SPS in 2011, to be able to establish entitlements in 2014?
- ix. What do you think about the greening proposal; do you think this would provide environmental benefits; should greening be compulsory; should organic farms be exempt from these requirements?
- x. What land do you think should be targeted in a farm’s ecological focus area?
- xi. What do you think about the proposals allowing coupled support?

Q2: What are your views regarding the single common market organisation proposals?

The following are suggestions of things you may wish to include within your response:

- i. Do you think the CAP should provide a safety net for producers?
- ii. What do you think of the new Crisis Reserve proposals?
- iii. What do you think about increasing the role of producer and inter branch organisations across all commodity sectors?
- iv. Do you think the proposal simplifies the existing arrangements?
- v. What do you think of the Commission's plans to update and streamline the rules and arrangements for public intervention and private storage aid?

Q3: What are your views regarding the rural development proposals?

The following are suggestions of things you may wish to include within your response:

- i. Do you support the removal of axes from the new regulation and the proposal that the measures be used together? Do you agree with the removal of minimum spends?
- ii. Do you agree with the six strategic priorities that the Commission has set? Are there priorities or actions you consider to be missing?
- iii. Which measures in this proposal do you think would be useful for you?
- iv. Do you support the increased and strategic focus on innovation and technology? What benefits do you think it will provide?
- v. Do you support the new measure for organic farming?
- vi. Do you support the proposed measure to support agri-environment-climate schemes? Do you agree with the proposal for groups of farmers to be eligible for these schemes?
- vii. What are your views on the new Risk Management provisions?
- viii. Are there any positive measures under the current rural development programme that you do not see continuing in these new proposals?
- ix. Do you support a continued role for Leader, including a minimum spend of 5%? Do you agree that Leader should apply across the Common Strategic Framework Funds?
- x. What are your views on the proposed "Areas facing Natural Constraints" designation, which is intended to replace the current Less Favoured Area?
- xi. What do you think of the proposal for two separate discretionary payments to farmers in Areas facing Natural Constraints – an area-based direct payment top-up, and a compensatory payment under the Rural Development Regulation?

Q4: What are your views regarding the financing, management and controls proposal?

The following are suggestions of things you may wish to include within your response:

- i. What do you think about the removal of some of the Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) and Statutory Management Requirements (SMR)?
- ii. What are your views on the Farm Advisory Service and expanding its responsibilities?

Q5: What are your views regarding the proposals fixing certain aids and refunds?

Q6: What are your views regarding the transitional arrangements for direct payments in 2013?

Q7: What are your views regarding the proposals to support vine growers?

Q8: Do you have views on any further areas you think we should consider concerning this package of CAP reform proposals?