



Plenary sitting

B9-0199/2024

25.3.2024

RECOMMENDATION FOR A DECISION

pursuant to Rule 111(6) of the Rules of Procedure

to raise no objections to the Commission delegated regulation of 12 March 2024 amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules on the ratio for the good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC) standard 1
(C(2024)01488 – 2024/2663(DEA))

Norbert Lins

on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Draft European Parliament decision to raise no objections to the Commission delegated regulation of 12 March 2024 amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules on the ratio for the good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC) standard 1 (C(2024)01488 – 2024/2663(DEA))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission delegated regulation (C(2024)01488),
 - having regard to the Commission’s letter of 12 March 2024 asking Parliament to declare that it will raise no objections to the delegated regulation,
 - having regard to the letter from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs of 19 March 2024,
 - having regard to Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013¹, and in particular Article 13(3) and Article 152(6) thereof,
 - having regard to Rule 111(6) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for a decision of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,
- A. whereas since 1 January 2023, Member States are implementing their CAP Strategic Plans including the obligation to maintain a ratio of permanent grassland compared to agricultural area as set out as a part of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition of Land (GAEC) Standard 1 (‘GAEC 1’) in Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115;
- B. whereas experience since the start of the implementation of GAEC 1 shows that these rules need to be amended to avoid putting a disproportionate burden on farmers where structural changes to Member State’s farming systems caused by market reorientation, such as a shift from livestock production to arable land farming and a reduction in livestock production, substantially impact the ability of farmers to establish permanent grasslands while maintaining their viability;
- C. whereas, in certain situations, Member States may have to impose obligations on beneficiaries to reconvert areas into permanent grassland or establish areas of

¹ OJ L435, 6.12.2021, p. 1.

permanent grassland, even though the decreases in the annual ratio are due to fluctuations in the declared areas;

- D. whereas in some circumstances, areas of permanent grassland may be registered in the Land Parcel Identification System but not declared for direct payments by farmers in a given year, or the total agricultural area may increase due to additional declarations by farmers;
- E. whereas, in such situations where the decrease of the annual ratio beyond the 5 % threshold set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 does not result from the conversion of areas of permanent grassland into other agricultural uses, it could be disproportionate to impose on farmers obligations to establish additional areas of permanent grassland;
- F. whereas it is appropriate to allow for a certain degree of flexibility while ensuring compliance with the main objective of GAEC 1 to have a general safeguard against conversion to other agricultural uses to preserve carbon stock and with the maximum decrease of the ratio set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115;
- G. whereas Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126², which lays down rules on the ratio for GAEC 1, should therefore be amended;
 - 1. Declares that it has no objections to the delegated regulation;
 - 2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and the Commission.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126 of 7 December 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council with additional requirements for certain types of intervention specified by Member States in their CAP Strategic Plans for the period 2023 to 2027 under that Regulation as well as rules on the ratio for the good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC) standard 1 (OJ L 20, 31.1.2022, p. 52).