



# New exemptions from controls in 2021 due to COVID

Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group - 14 June 2021

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# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2021/725

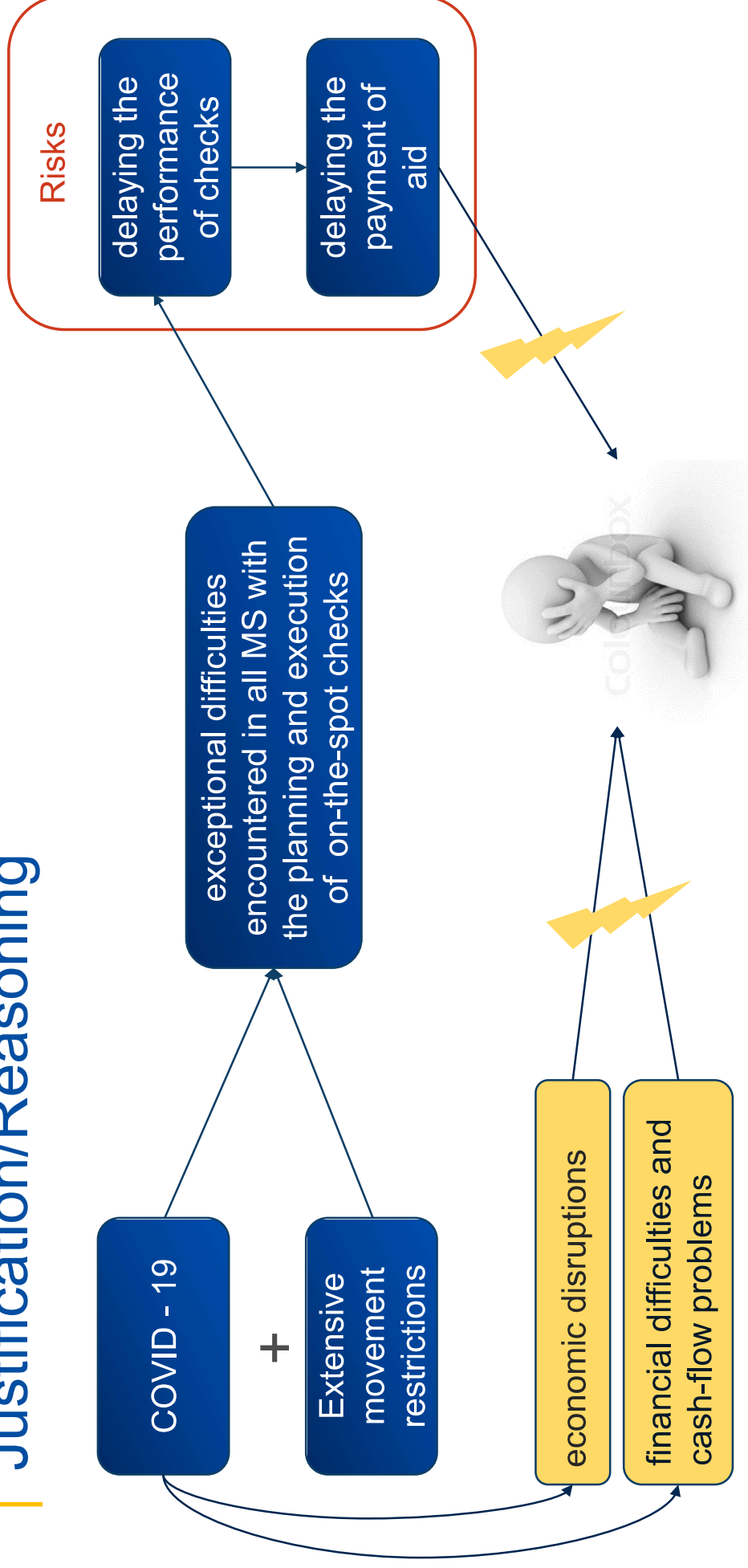
- of 4 May 2021, published on 5 May 2021
- derogating in respect of the [year 2021](#) from the following Implementing Regulations (EU) as regards certain administrative and on-the-spot checks:
  - No 809/2014 ([IACS schemes and measures](#), control rates for [non-IACS rural development measures](#) and minimum control rates relating to [cross-compliance](#));
  - No 180/2014, (EU) No 181/2014 (control rates for checks of specific measures for agriculture in the [outermost regions](#) and the [smaller Aegean islands](#));
  - No 2017/892 (rules as regards [producer organisations](#) or associations of producer organisations in the [fruit and vegetables sector](#));

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- No 2016/1150 (rules as regards the national support programmes in the [wine sector](#));
- No 2018/274 (rules as regards the scheme of authorisations for [vine plantings](#), certification, the inward and outward register, compulsory declarations and notifications);
- No 615/2014 (rules as regards work programmes to support the [olive oil and table olives sectors](#));
- No 2015/1368 (rules as regards the [apiculture sector](#)).

# Justification/Reasoning



# Previous experience - Regulation (EU) No 2020/532

- Alleviate difficulties by derogating certain administrative and on-the-spot checks in terms of their timing, number and technologic alternative methods;
- was very much welcomed by MS administrations;
- according to a questionnaire to MS, derogations (all optional) were widely used, especially those related to the reduction of control rates and to the use of alternative technologies to physical inspections;



**Due to continuation of the pandemic of COVID-19 in 2021, it was considered appropriate to provide for similar measures also in year 2021.**

## Regulation (EU) No 2021/725 in a nutshell

- Possibility of substitution of physical inspections by:
  - photo-interpretation of satellite or aerial ortho-images
  - new technologies such as geotagged photos or
  - other relevant evidence including documentary evidence  
provided by the beneficiary
- Flexibility in the timing of the execution of controls
- Possibility to reduce control rates

# Looking back at the acceptance of last year's equivalent regulation, Regulation (EU) No 2020/532

# Use of Derogations – R. 2020/532

## > 90% MS used

- Control rate reductions (IACS measures and cross compliance);
- Postponed control data notification.

## 33% < MS < 66% used

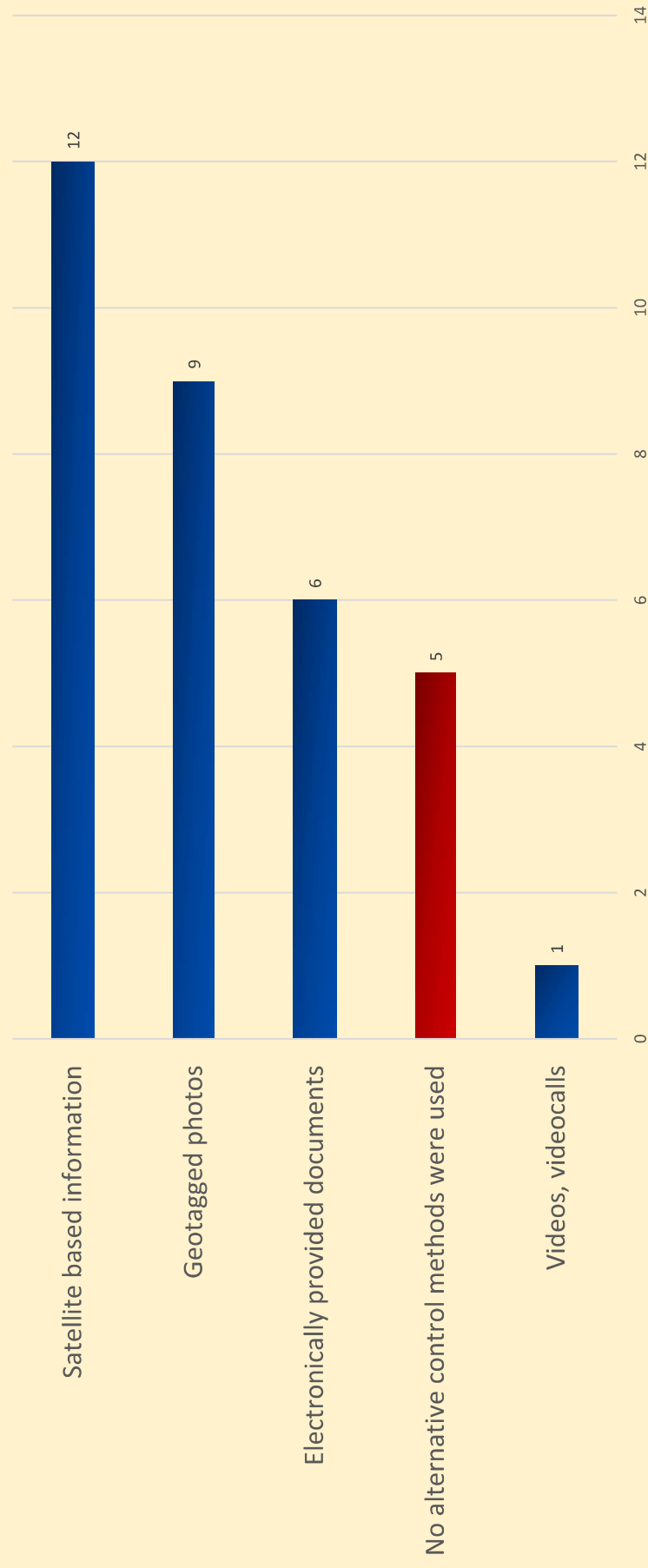
- Substitution of classic controls by alternatives given by new technologies or documentary evidences;
- Control rate reduction (ex-post checks EAFRD and non-IACS measures);
- Flexibility on the timing of the OTSC for animal measures.

## < 25% MS used

- Fully substitute physical inspections by the use of photo-interpretation or other relevant evidence, such as geotagged photos;
- Consider the rate of OTSC attained at the first day of entry into force of the relevant confinement rules as acceptable;
- Reduction of control rate from 3% to 1% (non-applicable in more than 70% of the MS).



R. 2020/532 - Did your Member State use **alternative control methods**? If yes, which ones (use of satellite based information, geotagged photos, other alternative evidence...)?



R. 2020/532 - In case your Member State did not use an alternative control method, do you consider **these alternatives would have been a possibility if on-the-spot checks were not possible at all in 2020? If not, why?**

- **NO because:**

- Do not cover all necessary controls;
- Do not provide the same reliability as OTSC;
- Request time for planning preparation and implementation for large scale use;
- More guidelines needed.

- **YES if:**

- Technology is available;
- Internet accessibility is ensured;
- Beneficiaries would receive specific training.

R. 2020/532 - Do you consider that **area and animal schemes have the same simplification/modernisation potential?** If not, why?

- **NO (100% of MS) because:**

- Area schemes have LPIS, remote sensing and area monitoring;
- Animal controls involve food safety issues;
- Control of cattle movement;
- Need to check ear tags → beneficiary must be present;
- DG SANTE rules have to be taken into account.

- **Some simplification potential for animal schemes control through:**

- Geotagged photos;
- Regulation simplification;
- Claimless application;
- Enhancing registries, data bases, traceability measures.

R. 2020/532 - How can new **technology** be used to **facilitate your work**?

LPIS update

- Satellite imagery

Eligibility criteria control

- Crop type mapping
- Geotagged photos
- Sentinel Data
- Videocalls
- Geo localisation devices for animals

Reduce number of  
OTSC

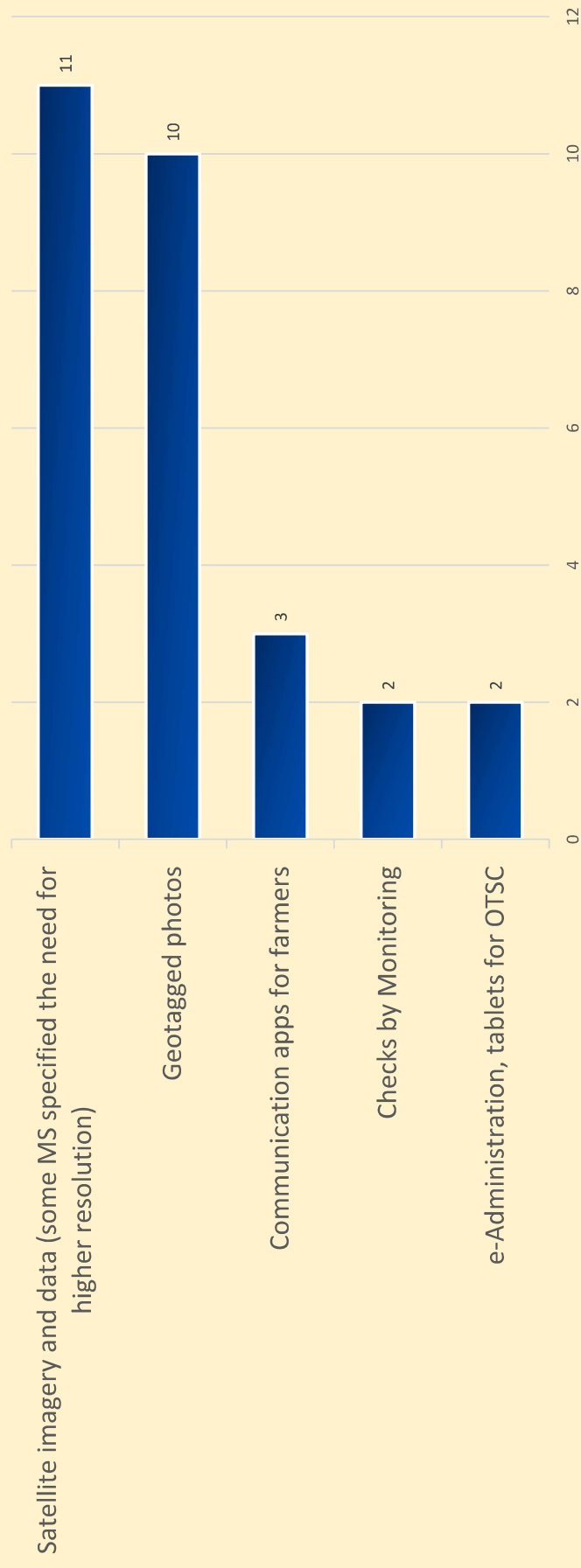
- Satellite imagery
- Drones
- Soil sensors

Improvements needed

- Satellite images with higher resolution (for small parcels)
- Geotagged photos - process must be automatic and easier for farmers
- Legal security and clear and unambiguous guidelines for the use of new technology



## R. 2020/532 - What **technological tools** would be the **easiest to take on board**?



# Closing the parenthesis on Regulation (EU) No 2020/532

# Lessons for Commission

- Generally positive feedback from MS
- More support & guidance to foster modernisation
- Important to build on this experience towards long-term change in the future
- The number of MS adhering to Checks by Monitoring, which can be considered a kind of precursor to the Area Monitoring System (AMS), doubled in the year 2021
- AMS is becoming a reality, increasing interest on the side of MS to test new technologies and get ready for the future CAP
- Different modernisation potential in aid schemes: area v. animals



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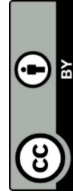
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# Thank you



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