



Brussels, 30.11.2022
C(2022) 8459 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.11.2022

**approving the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan of Malta for Union support financed by
the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development**

CCI: 2023MT06AFSP001

(Only the English and Maltese texts are authentic)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to 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 118(6) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 28 December 2021, Malta submitted to the Commission a proposal for its strategic plan under the common agricultural policy for Union support to be financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2027 ('2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan').
- (2) In accordance with Article 118(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, the Commission has assessed the proposed 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan of Malta and made observations, including on upscaling the production of sustainable biomethane, as provided for in paragraph 3, first subparagraph, of that Article on 31 March 2022². In accordance with paragraph 3, second subparagraph, of that Article, Malta provided to the Commission the additional information necessary to follow up the Commission's observations and submitted a revised version of its 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan on 10 November 2022.
- (3) The revised 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements on the content of the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plans laid down in Articles 107 to 115 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and in Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2289³. It has been drawn up by Malta with the

¹ OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 1.

² The observations of the Commission were sent to the Member State on 31 March 2022. The observations have been published on https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-strategic-plans/observation-letters_en.

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2289 of 21 December 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the

involvement of the partners referred to in Article 106(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, and in cooperation with the Commission.

- (4) The revised 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan proposed by Malta complies with the requirements laid down in Article 118(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.
- (5) According to Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, this Decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 110(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ in respect to the EAFRD. The elements required for the financing decision are contained in the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan, except the budget line, which is specified in this Decision. For reasons of transparency, the total EAFRD contribution for each type of intervention, the EAFRD contribution per year and the maximum EAFRD contribution, which are constituted by the adjusted allocations after the transfers set out in the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan in accordance with Article 103 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, are taken into account in the overview table of the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan provided for in Article 112(2) of that Regulation: the overview table should also be included in the Annexes to this Decision. The additional national financing for interventions in rural development in accordance with Article 146 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, should also be included in the Annexes to this Decision.
- (6) For reasons of transparency and clarity, this Decision should also summarise all elements, other than the adjusted allocations for EAFRD, which are specified in the overview table laid out in Article 112(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, including the adjusted allocations for direct payments after the transfers, indicated in the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan in accordance with Articles 17(5), 88(5) and (6) and 103 of that Regulation, which constitute the maximum financial allocations for direct payments.
- (7) According to Articles 92(2), 93(3), 95(3), 95(4), 95(5), 97(10), 97(11) and 98(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, the respective financial ceilings for LEADER, interventions addressing environmental and climate-related specific objectives, young farmers, eco-schemes and for redistributive income support should be approved by the Commission in accordance with Article 118 of that Regulation as a financial ceiling established in Union law. Therefore, those reverse financial ceilings should be specified in this Decision.
- (8) This Decision should not cover information on the control systems and penalties set up by Malta, and the information included in Annexes I to IV of the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan. It should also not cover State aid within the meaning of Articles 107, 108 and 109 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') falling outside the scope of Article 42 TFEU, which has not been approved by the Commission according to the relevant State aid procedures,

presentation of the content of the CAP Strategic Plans and on the electronic system for the secure exchange of information (OJ L 458, 22.12.2021, p. 463).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 187).

⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The final version of the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan of Malta, submitted to the Commission on 10 November 2022 by means of the electronic system for the secure exchange of information called 'SFC2021' in accordance with Article 3(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2289, is approved.

The approval of the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan shall not cover the information referred to in Article 113, point (c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and in Annexes I to IV of the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan, nor State aid within the meaning of Articles 107, 108 and 109 TFEU falling outside the scope of Article 42 TFEU.

Article 2

The overview table of allocations, including the adjusted allocations, as referred to in Article 112(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and set out in the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan, is set out in Annex I to this Decision.

The total EAFRD contribution for each EAFRD type of intervention is set out in Annex II to this Decision.

The financial ceilings calculated in accordance with Articles 92(2), 93(3), 95(3), 95(4), 95(5), 97(10), 97(11) and 98(2) respectively are specified in Annex III to this Decision.

A table of the additional national financing, as referred to in Article 146 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, is set out in Annex IV to this Decision.

Article 3

The maximum EAFRD contribution shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 08 03 01 01 (Rural development types of interventions under the CAP Strategic Plans).

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Malta.

Done at Brussels, 30.11.2022

For the Commission
Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI
Member of the Commission

