

Commission Working Document: Simplification of the CAP / Voluntary Coupled Support (VCS)

Title	Direct payments – Voluntary coupled support
Legal basis	Chapter 1 of Title IV of Regulation 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council
Delegated Act	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014
Amending regulation in the framework of the simplification effort	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2016/141 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 as regards certain provisions on the payment for young farmers and on voluntary coupled support and derogating from Article 53(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council
Date of adoption	30/11/2015
Publication and entry into force	4/2/2016
Start of application	1/1/2016, i.e. the 1st year of implementation of the amended rules is claim year 2016 (budget year 2017)
Amendment of the applicable rules	<p>The following issues were covered by the amendment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduction of modulated per unit amounts of aid within single VCS measures in order to recognize different degrees of economy of scale:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based upon the formerly applicable legislative framework, Member States were bound to apply a single per unit amount in each VCS measure. As from 2016, the amended rules allow that Member States may decide to apply modulated unit rates in single VCS measures; ○ Modulated unit rates may only be introduced in recognition of different economy of scale applicable to certain groups of beneficiaries within a single measure (i.e. smaller farmers may receive higher per unit rates); ○ Introduction of modulated per unit amounts is optional for Member States; ○ The amendment aims at improved targeting and thus more efficient use of the available resources; ○ The introduction of modulated per unit amounts may also give rise to merging already existing measures (under certain conditions); 2. <i>Transfer of funds between VCS measures:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based upon the formerly applicable legislative framework, Member States were bound to their original financial decisions

	<p>with only one review possibility (to be notified by 1 Aug 2016) between 2015 and 2020. As from 2016, the amended rules allow some flexibility for Member States to fine-tune their annual VCS envelopes at measure level;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Transfer of funds between VCS measures is optional for Member States and it is also subject to certain conditions;○ Transfer of funds between VCS measures shall remain neutral for the total annual VCS budget applicable to the Member State;○ A transfer decision may only affect the financing in that claim year for which the Member State decision is made (i.e. it only affects a single year);○ The aim is more flexibility and thus more effective use of the limited resources available for VCS; <p>3. <i>Streamlining of the Member States notifications and increased clarity in the drafting of the 'cumulation of support' provision</i> is proposed.</p>
--	--