

# Voluntary Coupled Support (VCS) / Sugar beet

*DG Agriculture and Rural Development  
European Commission*

*Civil Dialogue Group – Sugar&Starch  
15 Sept 2017*

# VCS - overview of the EU rules

- **Optional** scheme with 21 potentially eligible sector (incl. sugar beet)
- **Importance and difficulty** of the targeted sector/type of farming must be justified
- Only granted to the extent necessary to create an **incentive to maintain current levels of production** (reference period: 2009-2013)
- Within defined **quantitative limits** (number of hectares / animals)
- **Budgetary constraints**: Max 8% / 13% share of the national ceiling (higher share only under specific conditions and upon Commission approval), with optional +2% for protein crops
- **Fixed financial envelope** per measure with the possibility to transfer funds between measures (annual decision, subject to strict conditions)
- MS may **review** their decisions by 1/8/2016 with effect from claim year 2017

# Implementation in CY2015

## Payments effected and actual number of paid hectares

MS/Region	Measure No.	Measure	Quantitative limit (ha)	CY2015 implementation		
				Actually paid hectares	Total payment (in EUR)	Per unit amount (in EUR)
Poland	8	Płatność do buraków cukrowych	211 340	161 917	81 226 478	502
Romania	9	Schema de sprijin cuplat pentru sfecla de zahar	29 300	22 331	17 510 783	784
Czech Republic	8	Sugar beet	62 400	57 480	16 618 217	289
Italy	13	Barbabietola da zucchero	62 266	37 605	16 606 729	442
Spain	7	Ayuda asociada a la remolacha azucarera: zona de producción de siembra primaveral	32 500	27 139	14 122 693	520
Spain	8	Ayuda asociada a la remolacha azucarera: zona de producción de siembra otoñal	7 600	8 231	2 337 638	284
Slovakia	10	Coupled payment for the cultivation of sugar beet	20 429	21 557	7 967 344	370
Hungary	6	Coupled support for sugar beet	20 200	14 344	7 485 090	522
Croatia	7	Coupled support for sugar beet production	23 000	13 652	2 746 248	201
Greece	13	Coupled Support for Sugar beet production	13 367	4 703	2 461 084	523
Finland	20	Sugar beet premium, whole Finland	14 820	12 392	999 645	81
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>497 222</b>	<b>381 350</b>	<b>170 081 949</b>	

- Use rate: 97,4% (EU avg)
- Supported area by 23% below the QL, resulting in proportionally higher payments per hectare (compared to the originally estimated value)

# VCS review by Member States

## CY2017: Share of the national ceiling earmarked to VCS

MS	IE	NL	LU	UK	AT	DK	EE	EL	CY	IT	ES	RO	SK	SE	LV	BG	CZ	FR	HR	LT	HU	PL	SI	BE	FI	PT	MT
Original decision made in 2014	0,2%	0,5%	0,5%	1,7%	2,1%	2,9%	3,4%	8,0%	8%	11%	12%	13,7%	13%	13%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	16,7%	19,2%	20,2%	57,2%
of which PC	0,2%		0,5%					0,4%			0,9%	3,2%			2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3,5%	2%	2%	2%		1,2%		
Review in 2016	0,2%	0,5%	0,5%	1,7%	2,1%	2,9%	4,9%	9,9%	8%	12%	12%	12,5%	13%	13%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	14,8%	15%	16,7%	19,6%	20,2%	57,2%
of which PC	0,2%		0,5%					0,4%			0,9%	2,47%			2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3,5%	2%	2%	2%		1,2%		

- Most MS left the originally decided share of VCS unchanged
- In the few cases where it changed, the difference is typically small
- At EU level: share of VCS from direct payments remained roughly unchanged with around 10%, i.e. EUR 4,1-4,2 billion per year

# VCS review by Member States

Following the review (i.e. as from CY2017), the sugar beet sector...

- Receives support in 11 MS under 12 support measure. This, in both regards, is one more than in CY2015 and CY2016;
- Is eligible to some EUR 170-180 million (i.e. 4,3% of VCS or 0,4% of DP). This remained largely unchanged compared to CY2015 and CY2016;
- Targets the support of some 516 k ha (QL at EU level);
- Remained the 6th most important VCS sector (behind beef&veal; dairy; sheep&goat; protein crop; fruit&vegetables) both in terms of the nr of support measures and the amounts earmarked.

# Review by Member States

## Sectors benefitting from VCS per MS (from CY2017)

Sector	AT	BE/FL	BE/W	BG	CY	CZ	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK/SC	Count
Beef and veal	√	√	√	√		√	√	✗	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	24
Cereals									√		√	√				√	√		√							√			7
Flax																						√							1
Fruit and vegetables				√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√	√		19
Grain legumes									√	√												√		√					4
Hemp												√										√		√					3
Hops						√						√										√		√			√		5
Milk and milk products			√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√	√		19
Nuts									√	√																			2
Oilseeds																			√										1
Olive oil																√													1
Protein crops				√		√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√		√			16
Rice									√	√		√		√		√							√	√					7
Seeds									√			√					√		√					√					5
Sheepmeat and goatmeat	√		√	√	√	√		✗	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	21
Silkworms									√															√					2
Starch potato						√					√	√							√			√							5
Sugar beet						√			√	√	√		√	√		√	√					√		√			√		11

# Review by Member States

## Quantitative limit (in ha) and envelope (in EUR)

MS	Measures as from 2017		QL (ha)	Envelope (EUR)			
	Nr.	Name		CY2017	CY2018	CY2019	CY2020
Poland	8	Płatność do buraków cukrowych	211 340	81 999 117	81 999 117	81 999 117	74 429 288
Hungary	6	Coupled support for sugar beet	20 200	7 984 473	7 983 735	7 982 885	7 544 711
Slovakia	10	Coupled payment for the cultivation of sugar beet	20 429	8 092 000	8 156 400	8 219 400	7 177 800
Greece	13	Coupled Support for Sugar beet production	13 367	6 835 089	6 759 725	6 684 367	6 684 367
Croatia	7	Coupled Support for Sugar beet production	23 000	2 845 275	3 296 743	3 748 211	3 611 744
Spain	8	Ayuda asociada a la remolacha azucarera: zona de producción de siembra otoñal	7 600	2 366 390	2 366 390	2 366 390	2 366 390
Spain	7	Ayuda asociada a la remolacha azucarera: zona de producción de siembra primaveral	32 500	14 469 610	14 469 610	14 469 610	14 469 610
Romania	9	Schema de sprijin cuplat pentru sfecla de zahar	29 300	18 166 000	18 459 000	18 752 000	18 898 500
Czech Republic	8	Sugar beet	62 400	16 666 667	16 666 667	16 666 667	16 666 667
Italy	13	Barbabietola da zucchero	62 266	16 759 771	16 549 794	16 339 831	16 339 831
Lithuania	10	Coupled support for sugar beet	19 200	1 484 105	1 563 475	1 642 845	1 642 845
Finland	20	Sugar beet premium, whole Finland	14 820	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000
<b>Total (EUR):</b>			<b>516 422</b>	<b>178 668 497</b>	<b>179 270 656</b>	<b>179 871 323</b>	<b>170 831 753</b>

- **Poland:** some decrease till CY2019, then similar increase in CY2020
- **Croatia:** decrease by some EUR 1 million per year
- **Lithuania:** new measure

**EU level:**

- QL: +19 k ha
- EUR: roughly unchanged

**Thank you for your  
attention!**