



Simplification – GAECs 1 and 8

CDG Environment and Climate Change
CDG CAP Strategic Plans and Horizontal Matters

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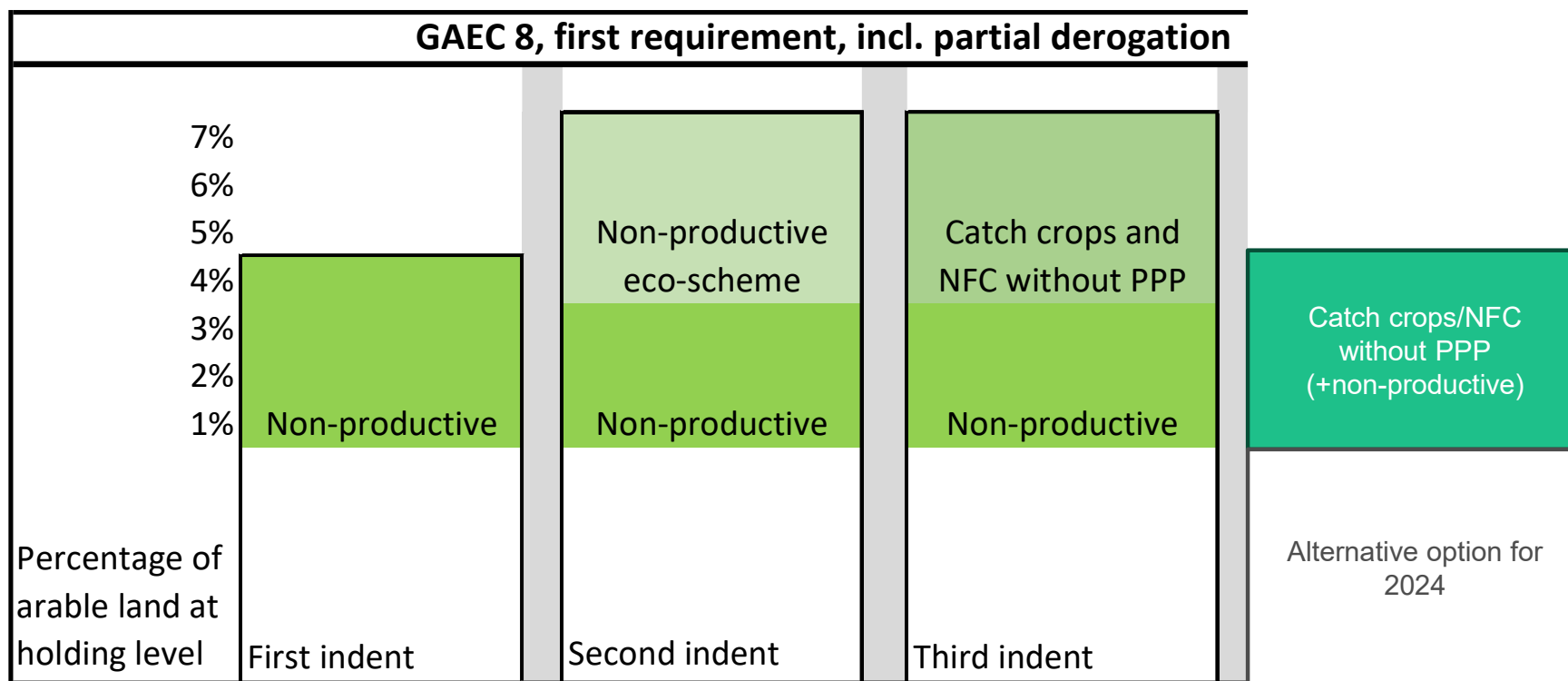
Content

1. Partial derogation from GAEC 8 in 2024
2. Amendments to the delegated act for GAEC 1

1. Partial derogation to GAEC 8 in 2024

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/587 of 12 February 2024
- Partial derogation from the first requirement of GAEC 8
- Only for claim year 2024
- Optional for Member States (all MS but DK, IE and MT)
- ***Additional*** option for fulfilling GAEC 8, first requirement
- If Member States decide to use it, it becomes an option for farmers *in addition* to the options for fulfilling the first requirement already included in their CSPs

Illustration



Baseline

- Payments shall be made **only for commitments that go beyond the requirement in the partial derogation**

What does it mean?

- If a farmer opts to meet the GAEC 8 first requirement through the **new** option, the payment for e.g. an eco-scheme should only be made for commitments which go beyond this new baseline.
- Where a farmer opts for the **new** option, the first indent of GAEC 8, i.e. the 4% of arable land for non-productive features and areas is NOT the baseline of that farmer.
- Without prejudice to the commitments set in the ecoschemes.
- Farmers have the choice to continue as if the new option for the first requirement of GAEC was not there. If the farmer e.g. opts for the second indent of the first requirement of GAEC 8 (where MS has this option in their CSP), then it remains baseline, i.e. the farmer will have to have 3% of non-productive areas and features.
- Derogation to procedures for modifications to eco-schemes based on GAEC 8, first requirement, to fulfil requirements with alternative option to ensure smooth implementation : notify the modifications at the moment they start to apply.
- MS to include the decision and modifications in the next request for amendment.

2. Amendment of delegated act on GAEC 1

- Maintenance of a ratio of permanent grassland in relation to agricultural area (max 5% decrease). Reference year 2018.
- GAEC 1 objective: “general safeguard against conversion to other agricultural uses to preserve carbon stock”
- Commission has laid down rules to ensure a level playing field as regards the ratio for GAEC 1 in Article 48 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126
 - the establishment of the reference ratio based on the areas declared in 2018,
 - the annual ratio
 - rules on how and when Member States need to ensure the re-establishment of permanent grassland areas

Context – GAEC 1 amendment of the delegated act

- Experience has illustrated two situations to be addressed:
 - In certain parts of the Union, farming systems affected by exceptional structural changes : Reduction of livestock herds and decline in the number of farmers specialised in livestock, reduced need for fodder and production re-orientation towards other crops than those to feed livestock.
 - 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, or where there are areas of permanent grassland not declared

Amendment of delegated act on GAEC 1

Four elements for amendments:

- Update reference ratio if a decrease of the area of permanent grassland is attributable to structural changes (described in previous slide) at the level in which GAEC 1 is implemented. To be seen on a five years period as from 2019 at the earliest
- The level of possible reconversion obligations could take into account:
 - Non-declared areas of permanent grassland
 - If the total agricultural area has increased and this affects the ratio
 - If areas of permanent grassland has been converted to other uses than agricultural
- Delegated act adopted on 12/3/2024: C(2024)1488 =>
- To be published upon Council and EP scrutiny

Thank you



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