



Agri–environment–climate measure in Rural Development 2014-2020

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Krzysztof Sulima
DG Agriculture and Rural Development
Unit Consistency of rural development
European Commission

Content

- Legal obligations
- Bases to determine the measure's content
- Basic vs. targeted
- Beneficiaries
- Baseline
- Commitments
- Payments calculations
- Training and advice
- Some figures

Legal background

- Obligatory nature of the measure for Member States (while voluntary for farmers) – the role of the measure in integrating environmental concerns in the CAP
- Availability of the measure throughout the Member States territory (link to the needs identified in SWOT analysis)
- Explicit mentioning of climate in the measure's title

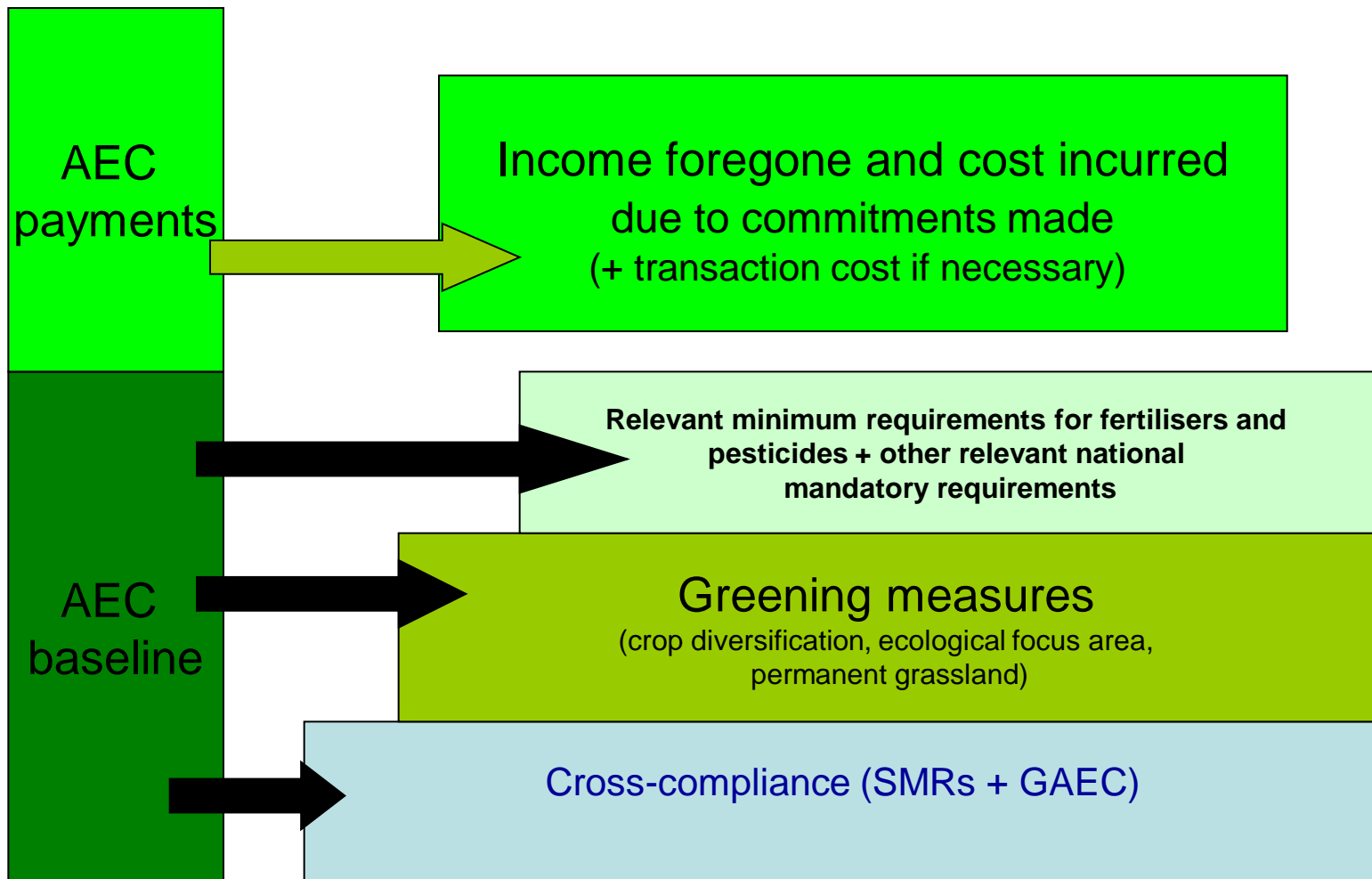
How to determine the content of the measure?

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the situation – identifying environmental pressures, needs and opportunities
- Analysis in relation to the relevant focus areas
- Maintenance or improvements of farming practices?
- Coherence with related EU / national strategies and legislation
- Basic or / and targeted (general vs. specific) commitments?

Who can receive the support?

- Farmers
 - Groups of farmers
 - Groups of farmers and other land managers
 - Other land managers
 - Groups of other land managers
- Concept of collective beneficiary:
- Which format of collective beneficiary?: legal status vs. single application
 - Advantages of single application
 - Internal arrangements: shared responsibilities

What is the AECM baseline made of?



How to define AEC commitments?

- Commitment determines the measure's nature and potential to contribute to priorities and focus areas
- Key elements when defining commitments:
 - Commitments must be clear in terms of its objectives and content and any ambiguity must be avoided (error rate)
 - Evidence based commitments in terms of its potential in delivery of the expected benefits
 - Commitments must be verifiable and controllable (ex-ante analysis of the verifiability)
 - A clear distinction between commitment and eligibility criteria (impact on control and sanction)

How to set premiums?

- Principle: income foregone + cost incurred + transaction costs
- The role of normal farming practice in setting premiums: no AEC payment for practices usually applied by farmers in the given area
- Methodology: standard costs calculations based on reliable data and variable costs (production means, yields, labour, product prices)
- Certification of the calculations by an independent body
- Differentiation of premiums: when is it necessary?
- No investment costs
- Use of the opportunity costs concept: improvement vs. maintenance
- Transaction costs
- Full or partial compensation of the calculation
- One-off payment – permanent renunciation of commercial use of land

Is training needed?

- Availability of RD measures influencing the delivery of AEC benefits: knowledge transfer and advisory services – the concept of integrated measures
- Important impact of knowledge and skills on the success of the measure's implementation
- Obligation for MS: if knowledge transfer and/or information is needed, MS must take steps to meet such needs.

Some figures

- It is the most important RD measure in terms of EAFRD expenditures (approx. 22 billion EU funds earmarked in this period = 23%)
- At EU-27, in 2011 : total area in EU-27 under AEM commitments (in 2011) = 41 million ha which is 25% of all UAA in the EU-27

Thank you for your attention