



Concept Paper on Greening

**ADVISORY GROUP AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT**

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1. Introduction

- Commission services Concept Paper on Greening
- Presented to Council on May 15, 2012
- Includes ideas
 - *on how to simplify the greening*
 - *to possible enhance its delivery of environmental and climate benefits*
 - *AECM/certification*
 - *Permanent Grassland*
 - *Crop diversification*

2. Role of AECM/certification



Openness:

- to foresee, under certain conditions, that a beneficiary of a Pillar II **agri-environment-climate measure** can be considered as fulfilling one (or several) of the greening measures;
- to foresee, under certain conditions, that a farmer, subject to an **environmental certification scheme** can be considered as fulfilling one (or several) of the greening measures.

2. Role of AECM/certification



The conditions

- the coverage of the whole farm (in line with the greening objective that almost all agricultural area is subject to greening requirements),
- an environmental ambition level that goes beyond the ambition level of the relevant greening measure(s), and
- a type of agri-environment-climate commitment or certification scheme requirement that corresponds to the type of the greening measures.

3. Permanent grassland

Openness:

- To consider as eligible, areas where grasses and other herbaceous forage are traditionally not predominant but still suitable for grazing and that form part of traditional agricultural systems.
 - In order to avoid disproportionately dilution of the amount of direct payments per hectares MS would be allowed to apply a reduction coefficient for the calculation of such hectares into eligible hectares
- Obligation to maintain at parcels level permanent grassland defined as land out of crop rotation for at least 8 years (instead of 5 years)



4. Crop diversification

Openness:



- To increase the exemption threshold from 3 ha to maximum 10 hectares;
- Exempt farms with a holding area of less than 50 hectares of which a significant part is covered by grassland (permanent and/or temporary), land left fallow or covered by combination of these;
- Allow a farmer adding up the share of this third and subsequent crops to reach the minimum requirement to 5%.



**Thank you
for your attention**