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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support under the CAP - Policy debate

Delegations will find in the annex to this note the Presidency's background note on the above-mentioned subject for the Council meeting ('Agriculture and Fisheries') on 28-29 September 2026.

The post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Regulation**State of Play - Information from the Presidency****Background**

On 16 July 2025, the Commission presented its proposals for the post-2027 framework for the CAP. The CAP Regulation aims to provide a simpler and more flexible framework, seeking to secure farmers' incomes, improve the targeting and fairness of payments, strengthen generational renewal, support risk management and resilience, and promote a better balance between common rules and incentives for climate, environment and animal welfare. The Commission proposals also integrated the CAP within the framework of the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs), with the aim of enabling stronger synergies with other Union funds, and a more efficient and flexible allocation of funding across different policy areas.

Work on the CAP Regulation proposal progressed under the Danish and Cyprus Presidencies, with detailed technical examinations and consideration of CAP-specific provisions transferred from the NRPP regulation. The Special Committee on Agriculture requested further work to be carried out by the HAQ WP on the definitions of farmer, active farmer and eligible hectare. The Cyprus Presidency provided a progress report at the June Council.

Work under the Irish Presidency

The Irish Presidency continued work with technical discussions at the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions (WP HAQ) on 1-2 July, 14-15 July and 2-3 September 2026. In addition, bilateral meetings with all Member States took place between 30 June and 17 July 2026. Member States also submitted further written drafting suggestions.

These helped to identify key policy and technical concerns, with discussions focusing in particular on the balance between a common EU framework and Member State flexibility, the design of income support, simplification measures, generational renewal, risk management and the environmental architecture. Member States also emphasised the need to minimise administrative burden for farmers and administrations, provide for legal certainty, and ensure that the Regulation better reflects diverse national agricultural structures and priorities.

At the July meetings of the WP HAQ, the Presidency presented a compromise text on the transferred articles and held detailed discussions on the definitions of farmer, active farmer and eligible hectare. Subsequently, Member States were invited to submit written comments on these definitions and further drafting suggestions on the transferred articles. The Presidency also facilitated technical exchanges with the Commission on the transition actions under the agri-environment intervention, the European Land Monitoring System (ELMS), crisis payments and risk management tools, as well as the targeting and differentiation of income support under DABIS.

Building on Member States' comments, the Presidency undertook extensive drafting work with the Commission on both the original CAP Regulation (Blocks 1-6) and the transferred articles, including controls and definitions (Block 7). At the WP HAQ on 2-3 September the Presidency presented its compromise text on the original CAP Regulation, and the Presidency will present its compromise text on the transferred articles including definitions (Block 7) at the WP HAQ on 30 September-1 October.

The Presidency's compromise drafting has focused in particular on:

- examining the design of DABIS, coupled income support and retirement-related provisions considering Member States' diverse agricultural structures and implementation concerns;
- providing greater flexibility in measures supporting generational renewal, including a clearer methodology for designing starter packs for young farmers and succession measures;

- increasing flexibility in the green architecture by streamlining environmental and climate priority areas and introducing greater discretion for Member States regarding the implementation of transition actions; clarifying provisions on risk management, including expanding the scope of the relevant provisions to better ensure that farmers have access to actions and investments for risk mitigation or climate adaptation interventions;
- advancing work on the key definitions of farmer, active farmer and eligible hectare, taking into account Member States' calls for flexibility and effective targeting.

The Presidency also heard delegations raising a number of issues requiring discussion outside the framework of WP HAQ, including elements linked to the MFF and the negotiating box, performance targets and ringfencing provisions. The Presidency organised small group meetings with all Member States on 4 September on some agricultural issues in the Negotiating Box (paragraphs 56-59), which the Presidency is reflecting upon. A number of Member States also requested the introduction of new interventions. However, it is not possible to unilaterally introduce interventions in the CAP Regulation that are not listed in Article 35 of the NRP Regulation.

Next Steps

The Irish Presidency intends to issue a revised MFF negotiating box ahead of the European Council on 15-16 October. The Presidency will build progressively towards a Partial General Approach (PGA) on the CAP Regulation at the AGRIFISH Council of 26-27 October 2026, through further technical examination of the remaining provisions, the development of Presidency compromise texts, and political guidance from the SCA and Council on outstanding issues.

The Council is invited to discuss the progress made on the post-2027 CAP proposals under the Irish Presidency.