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Sent: 24 October 2017 20:59

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Subject: EU Omnibus Regulation inc LFASS 2018 - update

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity

Purpose

To provide an update on the progress of the EU Omnibus Regulation, in particular the impact on LFASS in 2018 and the need for 'parachute' payments.

Background

Proposals for CAP simplification have been discussed in the EU throughout 2017. On the 23rd of October the European Commission (EC) published a range of proposed measures in their final round of CAP simplification, through an Omnibus Regulation. These measures are aimed at further simplifying the policy with a view to easing the burden on and making life easier for both farmers and national authorities. To note the EC have stated that the changes proposed do not change the orientation of the policy and are due to be in force by the start of 2018.

Latest position

The new measures have gone through the EU trilogue process and been endorsed by the Special Committee on Agriculture, however the EC are yet to provide any further information around subsequent changes in the Implementing Regulations. We shall of course continue to monitor progress closely and keep you updated.

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Other changes that stakeholders may pick up on are:

Greening.

- Crop diversification – farmers with 75% of their arable land covered with legumes would no longer have to meet crop diversification rules.
- Ecological focus area – the addition of three new varieties to the eligible plant list and increase in weighting factor for short rotation coppice and nitrogen fixing crops.

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Officials are working through the information that has been provided by the EC to analyse all of the proposed measures.

Conclusion

Mr Ewing as asked to note this information and that a submission will follow [Redacted text] along with further information on the Omnibus Regulation following further analysis and as it progresses.

Kind regards

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CAP, SRDP & GM Policy

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