



# **Management Plan 2017**

Directorate-General  
Agriculture and Rural Development



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## INTRODUCTION

The DG AGRI 2017 Management Plan defines the actions and outputs planned for 2017 in pursuit of the objectives fixed in the legal basis of the policy and the political priorities of the Juncker Commission.

DG AGRI contribution to Juncker priorities is particularly significant towards the delivery of the following four **Commission general objectives**:

1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment (Juncker priority 1)
2. A Connected Digital Single Market (Juncker priority 2)
3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy (Juncker priority 3)
4. A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. (Juncker priority 6).

In addition, DG AGRI international cooperation activities contribute to Commission general objective "A Stronger Global Actor" (Juncker priority 9). Some rural development programmes provide support to migration issues and therefore contribute as well to Commission general objective "Towards a new policy on Migration" (Juncker priority 8).

DG AGRI pursues the above priorities via the three CAP top-level objectives as set out in the Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, Art. 110(2)<sup>1</sup>, hereafter referred to as "CAP common objectives":

- Viable food production, with the focus on agricultural income, agricultural productivity and price stability
- Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, with a focus on greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, soil and water
- Balanced territorial development, with a focus on rural employment, growth and poverty in rural areas

The common objectives are broken down into specific objectives, some of which are common to Pillar I (broadly, agricultural income and market support) and II (rural development), whereas others are linked either to Pillar I or to Pillar II.

DG AGRI's strategic planning for the 2016-2020 period delivering on the objectives fixed in the legal basis of the policy and on the Commission's Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change, focusing on ten priorities, has been defined in the DG AGRI's Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

The objectives and indicators associated with the activities included in AGRI Strategic Plan constitute the framework for assessing the achievement of policy and organisation throughout the mandate of the Juncker Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008

The following table gives an overview of the four Commission general objectives selected for DG AGRI<sup>2</sup>, the related common CAP objectives and the accompanying impact indicators (both corporate and CAP-specific).

Commission General Objectives	Related common CAP objectives (CO)	Impact Indicators
<b>1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>	CAP CO 1: viable food production CAP CO 2: sustainable management of natural resources and climate action CAP CO 3: balanced territorial development	<p><b>Corporate</b></p> <p>Percentage of EU GDP invested in R&amp;D (combined public and private investment)</p> <p>Employment rate population aged 20-64</p> <p><b>CAP-specific</b></p> <p>Agricultural factor income</p> <p>Total factor productivity in agriculture</p> <p>EU commodity prices compared to world prices</p> <p>Rural employment rate</p>
<b>2. A Connected Digital Single Market</b>	CAP CO 3: balanced territorial development	<p><b>Corporate</b></p> <p>Aggregate score in Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) EU-28</p> <p><b>CAP-specific</b></p> <p>Percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved ICT services/infrastructures</p>
<b>3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy</b>	CAP CO 2: sustainable management of natural resources and climate action	<p><b>Corporate</b></p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p><b>CAP-specific</b></p> <p>Net greenhouse gas emission from agriculture</p> <p>Nitrate levels in freshwater (water quality)</p> <p>Minimum share of agricultural land with specific environmental practices/commitment</p>
<b>6. A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.</b>	CAP CO 1: viable food production	<p><b>CAP-specific</b></p> <p>Share of agri-food trade with the US in total EU agri-food trade</p>

<sup>2</sup> Following the Instructions for the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and Management Plan 2016, the DGs should select a maximum of four objectives from the list of Commission general objectives.

The last reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was agreed in 2013. Since then, significant developments have taken place:

First, falling agricultural prices have left farmers feeling highly vulnerable. Unfavourable terms of trade for the sector may well persist for some time.

Secondly, the Commission's 'Trade for All' strategy has led to an increased number of international negotiations which in turn increases the pressure on the EU agricultural sector.

Thirdly, agriculture and forestry sectors need to play a key role in our new EU 2030 climate and energy framework, as well as to respond to ongoing global challenges such as migration and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The moment has come to take stock of the last CAP reform (greening) and to launch a reflection on the way forward for the CAP and to further boost its contribution to the cross-cutting EU priorities. Both Council and European Parliament have already launched the discussions on the post-2020 CAP.

For this reason, in 2017, DG AGRI will take forward work and consult widely on simplification and modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy to maximise its contribution to the Commission's ten priorities and to the Sustainable Development Goals. This will focus on specific policy priorities for the future, taking account of the opinion of the REFIT Platform, and without prejudice to the Commission proposal to revise the Multiannual Financial Framework.

As concerns the position of farmers in the food supply chain, the Resolution of the European Parliament, voted with an overwhelming majority in June 2016, calls for framework legislation at EU level as "necessary in order to tackle unfair trading practices and to ensure that European farmers and consumers have the opportunity to benefit from fair selling and buying conditions." The Slovak Presidency issued Council conclusions on the food chain on 12 December 2016.

In January 2016, an expert group was established, the Agricultural Markets Task Force, to prepare recommendations to strengthen the position of farmers in the food supply chain. In the light of the report released on 14 November 2016, DG AGRI will consider further action as necessary.

## **PART 1. MAIN OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR**

### ***Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment***

The priority of the Juncker Commission is to increase the number of jobs and create growth in Europe's economies. Along with the necessary reforms and pursuing responsible management of finances, Europe also needs to restore investment levels to overcome the crisis and to kick-start new and sustainable jobs.

DG AGRI contributes to the achievement of the Commission general objective "A new boost for jobs, growth and investment" by implementing a number of CAP instruments relating to all three CAP common objectives. In this respect, the CAP combines fostering the competitiveness and the market orientation of the primary sector on the one hand and protecting farmers from sudden severe market disturbances on the other to sustain farming in Europe.

The CAP intervenes in two ways. The 1<sup>st</sup> pillar of the CAP promotes jobs in the primary sector first and foremost by granting an income support to farmers mainly via decoupled direct hectare payments: this income support provides stability to the farming sector, allows for the continuation of agricultural activity, most notably in times of crises, and ensures the development of a sustainable farm sector across the whole EU. In addition the 1<sup>st</sup> pillar market measures provide a safety net in cases of market and price crises. The 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar supports job creation and maintenance of jobs via supporting investments in rural businesses and infrastructures and skills acquisition through innovation support, training and advice. These support mechanisms make a substantial contribution to job creation and the development of the sector in rural areas.

#### ***1.1 CAP common objective: Viable food production***

##### ***1.1.1 Specific objective: To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and enhance its value share in the food chain***

###### **Food chain initiative**

On the basis of the report by the Agricultural Markets Task Force<sup>3</sup> (and possible further consultations, including an impact assessment if necessary), DG AGRI will consider whether to take forward a policy initiative which would seek to increase market transparency along the food chain, improve the governance of unfair trading practices insofar as agricultural products are concerned and clarify the rules applying to cooperation among farmers and in the chain in relation to competition law.

###### **Simplification**

DG AGRI has established a structured approach to review the more than 200 Commission implementing regulations with a legal basis in the CMO Regulation. The approach focusses on simplification and reduction of administrative burden, as well as alignment with the Lisbon Treaty and involves working closely with Member States' experts. The aim is to finish with around 20 delegated and 20 implementing regulations for the whole of the CMO. Most of this work will be completed in the course of 2017.

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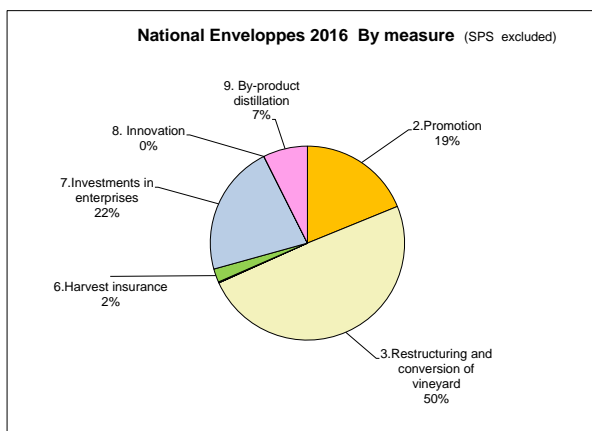
<sup>3</sup> See the final report of the Task Force "Improving market outcomes", which includes a number of concrete recommendations for policy and legislative initiatives, presented on 14 November 2016: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agri-markets-task-force/improving-markets-outcomes\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agri-markets-task-force/improving-markets-outcomes_en.pdf).

## Fruit and vegetables

The main activity of producer organisations relates to concentration of supply and the joint placing on the market in order to increase bargaining power of the farmers. Therefore the percentage of the production of fruit and vegetables that is marketed through producer organisations and their associations is a good indicator of the effectiveness and attractiveness of the scheme.

## Wine sector

During 2016 50% of the executed budget will have been spent for restructuring measures, making it by far the most popular measure of the wine support programmes. The increased quality of vineyards contributes to the improvement of the competitiveness. Together with the investments in the wine sector, restructuring is boosting jobs and growth in particular regions and ensuring income stability. Promotion activities contribute to the increase of exports where high quality wine products contribute yearly with EUR 9 billion to the external trade balance.



## School Scheme

By durably increasing the share of milk, fruit and vegetables in the diets of children when their eating habits are being formed, the school scheme contributes to the CAP objectives of stabilising the markets and ensuring the availability of both current and future supplies, in addition to the public health objectives of shaping healthy eating habits.

A new scheme will apply as from 1 August 2017, bringing the current school fruit and vegetables scheme and the school milk scheme under a single legal and financial framework for greater efficiency and more focused support.

The Commission adopted on 3 November 2016 a delegated regulation and an implementing regulation with the necessary rules for the smooth functioning of the scheme according to the new legal framework. The two regulations are envisaged to be published in the Official Journal and enter into force, after the two-month period for the scrutiny of the delegated regulation by the European Parliament and of the Council, in January 2017.

A decision with the financial allocation per participating Member State in the 2017/2018 school year is envisaged to be adopted in March 2017, to complete the Commission's preparatory activities aimed at a timely and smooth implementation of the school scheme as from 1 August 2017.

## Animal products (milk and meat)

To be competitive both within the single market and on third country markets, the animal product sectors need to enjoy a level playing field notably in terms of marketing standards. Specific initiatives should be completed in the course of 2017 with regard to carcass classification in the meat sector and analysis methods for milk products benefitting from public intervention.



## **Olive oil and table olives**

The conclusion of the new International Olive Agreement 2015 is a key factor to ensure a level playing field in international trade in olive oil. The internal EU process for ratification and implementation of this Agreement should be completed in 2017 after its provisional application already decided in 2016. EU marketing standards in this sector are largely defined in line with the International Olive Council and are also necessary for the smooth functioning of the EU common market. During 2017 the EU will support the launch of a process to harmonise international olive oil standards of CODEX with the IOC standards. The three years working programmes in Greece, France and Italy aim to improve market efficiency, competitiveness and sustainability of the olive sector in these three Member States and reinforce sectorial structures such as producer and inter-branch organisations. Market management measures like private storage aid are available but it has not been necessary to activate them in recent years.

## **Cereals**

Market management in the cereals sector contributes to the competitiveness and export performance of EU cereals on the global market. Exports of EU soft wheat and EU barley in particular have been very competitive and are improving the competitiveness of the EU agricultural sector.

## **Rice**

Because of the political sensitivity of rice farming in the EU, market management in the rice sector is essential, in particular monitoring of rice imports and their possible impact on the EU rice market. EU imports of rice have increased significantly in recent years, in particular from EBA countries like Cambodia and Myanmar and have resulted in regular political complaints from the key EU rice producing Member States (Italy, Spain, Portugal).

## **Sugar**

The management of the sugar market in 2016/17 will face additional challenges due to the fact that this is the final year under a quota regime. In order to have a fluid market in which sugar is traded at reasonable prices and to achieve a smooth transition from the quota to the post quota period, the Commission will closely monitor the market. This may entail proposing appropriate market measures in case needed, putting in place the proper post quota regulations on "notifications" and "additional duties", opening new import quotas and addressing any (legal) issue relevant for the change to the post quota era.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Viable food production</b>		
<b>Specific objective: To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and enhance its value share in the food chain</b>		Related to spending programme: EAGF
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Alignment of rules for market measures (leading to reduction of Commission regulations from more than 200 to no more than 40)	Adoption of delegated and implementing acts	June 2017
Delegated and Implementing Acts for market measures	Adoption	2017
Commission implementing decision on the definitive allocation of Union aid to Member States under the school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme for the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018	Adoption	Planned 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017
Member States strategies, at national or regional level, to implement the school scheme in the period 2017-2023	No of strategies published in the Europa website	By 1/8/2017
2017/AGRI/004 Delegated act amending Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 as regards marketing standards in the fruit and vegetables sector (alignment to UNECE standards)	Adoption	2017
2017/AGRI/045-046 Delegated and Implementing regulation as regards the scheme of authorisations for wine plantings, vineyard register, accompanying documents, inward and outward register and compulsory declarations.	Adoption	2017
2015/AGRI/098 Proposal of Council Decisions on the conclusion and on the EU implementing procedures of the International Olive Agreement 2015	COM adoption	Planned 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2017
2015/AGRI/017 & 18 Delegated & Implementing Regulation on the EU scales for carcass classification and the reporting of prices to simplify and streamline procedures, reduce the overall administrative burden, improve clarity and adjust provisions to changed market situations and technical progress as well as harmonize different rules	Adoption	2017

Implementing Regulation as regards methods for the analysis and quality evaluation of milk and milk products for private storage aid and public intervention	Adoption	2017
The Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and to the Council by 31 December 2017, on the application of the competition rules to the agricultural sector in all Member States, in particular on the operation of Articles 209 and 210, and of Articles 169, 170 and 171 in the sectors concerned (Regulation 1308/2013, art. 225 d)	Report on the application of the competition rules in the agricultural sector	2017
Food chain legislation on basis of CAP competence	Changes to legal rules concerning the governance of the food chain so as to improve the position of farmers – follow-up to Agricultural Markets Task Force's November 2016 report	2017/2018

### ***1.1.2 Specific objective: To maintain market stability***

#### **Exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables**

The temporary exceptional measures following the Russian ban aim to alleviate the pressure on the internal market from quantities of fruit and vegetables that used to be exported to Russia and that have not found a new outlet. The share of the quantities actually withdrawn from the market related to the total production of the products covered by the regulation would serve as an indicator of the effectiveness of the measure to contribute to the balance on the market.

#### **Animal products (milk and meat)**

The design, adoption and implementation of appropriate market management measures are key to contributing to market stability in the various animal product sectors. As far as can be seen at present, 2017 will be challenging from an animal health point of view. Compensation measures are in the making with regard to avian flu in France as well as to African Swine Fever in Poland.

From a pure market balance point of view, measures will be taken in 2017 to secure a smooth sale of skimmed milk powder (bought into public intervention in 2015 and 2016) back onto the market via a tender procedure.

Generally speaking, depending on market developments, measures may appear necessary in some animal product sectors in case of exceptional market imbalance. By their very nature, those measures cannot be anticipated but preparedness is key to reacting diligently and efficiently.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Viable food production</b>		
<b>Specific objective: To maintain market stability</b>		Related to spending programme: EAGF
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables	Adoption	In place till June 2017
Exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables	Share of volume withdrawn in support of market (0.91%)	maintain market stability
Implementing regulations to address a smooth functioning of the sugar market in the final quota year	Relatively stable prices	a price range between 500 and 600 euro/tonne
Implementing Regulation on exceptional market support measures for the poultry meat sector in France following avian influenza outbreaks	Adoption	2017
Implementing Regulation on exceptional market support measures for the pig meat sector in Poland following African Swine Fever outbreaks	Adoption	2017
Implementing Regulations fixing minimum selling prices for skimmed milk powder held in public stocks	Adoption	Throughout the year and next years until stocks are fully disposed of
Temporary exceptional measures for livestock farmers	Adoption if necessary to maintain market stability	Depend on market developments

### **1.1.3 Specific objective: To sustain farmers' income stability by providing direct income support**

All the following outputs aim at ensuring that the delivery modes related to direct support are in place at all levels (EU and national), thus ensuring that income support to farmers is delivered in a consistent, efficient and regular way as well as in a timely manner.

For example, meetings of the expert group on direct payment and of the committee on direct payment ensure that Member States authorities are consulted on the draft delegated and implementing act, are provided with guidance for their implementation, and are given detailed instructions as regards the monitoring and the reporting to Commission services. Besides, a robust accounting system is necessary for this policy as well as for reporting purposes.

**Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**

**CAP common objective: Viable food production**

**Specific objective: To sustain farmers' income stability by providing direct income support**

Related to spending programme: EAGF

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme**

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Follow-up of the changes in the Direct Payment regulation as part of the Omnibus regulation (assessment of proposals by MS / EP, drafting of background notes etc.) and preparation of MS for implementation of the changes	MS prepared to implement the changes contained in the Omnibus by end 2017	2017

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Preparation of legal acts (financial ceilings for 2017, approval decisions for reviewed Voluntary Coupled support for BE, FI, PT), and possible further simplifications	Necessary delegated Acts and Implementing Acts prepared and adopted	All along the year
Continuing follow-up of the implementation of Direct Payments in the different MS (update of notifications / exchanges with MS, including by the organisation of workshops on policy issues / legal interpretations and guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of Expert groups and Committees</li> <li>- Letters to MS</li> <li>- Bilateral meetings with MS</li> <li>- Assessment notes where appropriate</li> </ul>	All along the year
Reporting and communication activities, as regards the different schemes and their implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalisation and circulation of monitoring reports for 2015</li> <li>- Preparation of the monitoring reports for 2016</li> </ul>	Early 2017 for 2015 reports  Second semester for 2016 reports
Contribution to policy analysis / provision of an expertise on Direct Payments in various exercises (e.g. work on the modernisation of the CAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internal analytical notes</li> <li>- Participation in working groups and various meetings</li> </ul>	All along the year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of legal acts and guidelines to review, amend and simplify the IACS legislative framework</li> </ul>	Delegated/Implementing acts for IACS and guidelines to be amended (2015/AGRI/090, 2016/AGRI/036)	All along the year

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing interpretation to Member States with regard to the implementation of direct payments, in particular from an IACS perspective</li> <li>• Follow-up and support of the implementation of Direct Payments in particular as regards IACS, including the dissemination of good practices and exchange of experience</li> <li>• Monitoring the implementation of direct payments and ensuring that action is taken when implementation is lacking/failing.</li> <li>• Initiation and follow up as appropriate of Member State Action Plans according to Art 41.2 of Reg 1306/2013.</li> <li>• Analysing and reporting on MS Quality Assessment of their LPIS (LPIS).</li> </ul>	Replies to MS/stakeholders questions in a timely manner	All along the year
	Organisation of workshops/expert groups facilitating MS exchange of experience and of good practices [number undetermined yet]	All along the year
	Organisation of missions/visits to MS and bilateral meetings with MS in Brussels, mostly upon MS request [number undetermined yet]	All along the year
	Contribution to DG AGRI Annual Activity Report and assessing whether reservations, and subsequently action plans are necessary	By 15.04.2017 for the AAR
	Preparation of reduction/suspension decisions whenever necessary.	All along the year
	Initiate action plans in good time and maintain their momentum according to agreed timetables	All along the year
	Assessing the MS LPIS QA reports/scoreboards and reporting through the direct payments committee / LPIS workshops. Giving feedback to MS in writing as to potential weaknesses identified in the exercise. Follow up visits to MS according to priority criteria.	By 30 April 2017 for QA reports and scoreboards.

### Other important outputs

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
To maintain a robust system of control and monitoring to ensure the sound and efficient shared financial management and the monthly reimbursement of Member States' eligible expenditure of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and to account for it.	Correct and timely monthly payments (12 payments + 1 complementary)	3 <sup>rd</sup> working day of every month
	Correct and timely regularisation in ABAC (accounting)	2 months after the monthly declaration of expenditure (Article 171(1) of the Financial Regulation.
	Control of clear-cut	Monthly and bi-annual

	eligibility criteria, ceilings and deadlines.	(deadlines) controls respectively
	Public Storage expenditure management (12 monthly declarations + 1 annual declaration from Member states holding stocks)	Declarations received by the 12 <sup>th</sup> each month. Continuous follow up required.

**1.1.4 Specific objective: To promote a more market oriented agriculture by ensuring a significant level of decoupled income support**

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Viable food production</b>		
<b>Specific objective: To promote a more market oriented agriculture by ensuring a significant level of decoupled income support<sup>4</sup></b>		Related spending programme: EAGF to
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes</b>		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Decoupled support <sup>5</sup>	% of total direct payments which is decoupled	Calendar year 2015/budget year 2016: 88.9% <sup>6</sup> Calendar year 2016/budget year 2017: 88.7% <sup>7</sup>

The indicator showing the percentage of direct payments which is decoupled allows an immediate reading of the achievement of the specific objective: 88.9% for calendar year 2015 and 88.7% for the calendar year 2016 is a significant level of decoupling.

<sup>4</sup> The wording of this objective was adapted to take into account the provisions of the Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009, as regards their application as of 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Direct payments are payments granted directly to farmers to ensure them a safety net. They are mainly granted in the form of a basic income support, decoupled from production, stabilising their income stemming from sales on the markets, which are subject to volatility.

<sup>6</sup> Execution of the Budget 2016 provisional figures.

<sup>7</sup> Based on the Budget 2017 estimated needs, excl. the crisis reserve. The figure takes into account that in accordance with the methodology for implementation of the small farmers scheme, as chosen by the Member States, part of the expenditure under that scheme is "decoupled".

## **Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market**

Broadband coverage is significantly lower in rural areas than urban areas, and access to high-speed "next generation" technologies is particularly low (25% vs. 68%). Closing the digital divide between urban and rural areas is an important enabler for businesses to remain competitive, for rural communities to deploy their potential and for the EU farm sector to reap the benefits that ICT represents in terms of economic and environmental performance as well as climate change.

DG AGRI, through the CAP measures and funding provided under the EAFRD, improves the access to high-speed technologies in rural areas and thus contributes to Commission general objective 2 "A Connected Digital Single Market" via the common CAP objective "balanced territorial development".

### ***1.1.5 Specific objective: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest (Priority 2)***

The European Network for Rural Development helps to improve the implementation of Rural Development Programmes and enhance results and performance by sharing best practices and experience, as well as providing a platform for stakeholders and managing authorities to work together in a strategic manner. This is done via meetings, events, thematic work groups, as well as publication and communication activities.

Improving the performance of Rural Development Programmes is also achieved by the work of DG AGRI interacting directly with Member States and regions through participation in monitoring committees, annual review meeting and inter-service groups. DG AGRI also follows-up on the progress in programmes' implementation through examination of respective monitoring reports and proposals for programmes amendments.

The network of the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability, also funded under Rural Development, works as a knowledge hub and helps speed up innovation on the ground by creating working links between research and practice. This is done via the organisation of focus groups, workshops and seminars, as well as communication and networking activities.

*Please refer to the specific objective "Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas (RD Priority 1)" for a more detailed description of main outputs.*



**Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**

**Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market**

**Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**

**CAP common objective: Viable food production**

**Specific objective: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest (Priority 2)**

Related to spending programme: EAFRD

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**Other important outputs**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Events of the European Network for Rural Development (Number of events)	1 EU rural networks' Assembly meeting 2 EU rural networks' Steering Group meetings 2 Thematic work themes completed 10 Workshops	2017
Publications and communication of the European Network for Rural Development (Number)	2 EU Rural Reviews 2 Rural Connections magazines 2 Project Brochures 12 ENRD newsletters ENRD website (page views per month) 100 000 Social media presence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twitter followers: 2 450</li> <li>• Facebook page likes: 4 670</li> </ul> LinkedIn Group members: 570	2017
Assessment of Annual Implementation Reports	118 reports	2017
Assessment of proposals for programmes amendments	120 modifications (estimate)	2017
Meetings with Member States (Monitoring Committees, Annual Review Meetings, etc.)	280 meetings (estimate)	2017

*This is also valid for the following specific objective.*

**1.1.6 Specific objective: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture (Priority 3)**

The aim of EU quality policy and in particular with respect to geographical indications is to add value to agricultural products by protecting names for these products where they possess specific qualities and characteristics due to production and processing in a particular geographical area. Production of value added products contributes to creating growth and jobs, notably in rural areas, or at least to maintain them as the production of a geographical indication cannot be delocalised. It also contributes to a balanced territorial development within the Union. The main policy objectives are to register product names proposed by producers, notably for geographical indications, to help create a common culture for controls related to geographical indications in the Member States in order to ensure solid protection of registered names, and to make the system of quality schemes better known, in particular geographical indications. The outcome is a higher uptake of products participating in quality schemes, increased awareness of and trust in these products, and opening of new opportunities for producers to place their products on the markets, both in the internal market and in third countries.

The above objectives will be delivered by timely treatment of applications for registration and entering the registered names in the EU registers to ensure their protection. In particular in the wine area, new delegated and implementing acts should facilitate registration procedures and simplify communication about changes to product specifications in order to ensure a simpler and more transparent way of managing wine geographical indications. Alignment of spirit drinks rules could also lead to improved procedures for registration of geographical indications in this sector.

While Member States are responsible for enforcing EU quality policy, including sanctioning those who breach the rules as regards protection of registered names, it is the duty of the Commission to verify that the control systems in the Member States perform their tasks. In particular, auditing of Member States' official control systems and facilitating exchange of best practice contribute to a common control culture across Member States, to the benefit of consumers and producers alike.

As protection of EU geographical indications is key for producers who export their goods, geographical indications also play an important role in bilateral agreements between the EU and third countries. Timely treatment of third countries' geographical indications to be protected through these agreements is a necessary counterpart and thus contributes to their successful conclusion.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Viable food production</b>		
<b>Specific objective: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture (Priority 3)</b>	Related spending programme: EAFRD	to
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Registration of names as PDO/PGI/TSG/GI following scrutiny of applications from EU Member States and	Number of applications examined (dependent on submissions made to the Commission)	Within 6 months for agricultural products and foodstuffs; within 12 months for wine,

from third countries.		spirit drinks, aromatised wine
Management of the Community registers and lists of PDO/PGI/TSG/GI.	Registers kept updated	Ongoing
2016/AGRI/001 and 2016/AGRI/002 Delegated and implementing acts for wine labelling and presentation, traditional terms and geographical indications,	Adoption	By mid 2017
2011/AGRI/039 Alignment proposal for spirit drinks	Following the adoption of the Commission proposal, discussions in the Council and the EP	During 2017
Delegated and implementing acts for spirit drinks, including geographical indications	Meetings of Expert group and Committee	During 2017
Monitor supervision of the control systems put in place by the Member States for registered PDO/PGI/TSG/GI and exchange best practice	Participation in FVO audits Completion of seminars Contribution to trainings	Ongoing By end 2017 Ongoing
Contribute to negotiations on international agreements as regards geographical indications	Third countries' specifications of geographical indications examined Lists and specifications of EU geographical indications provided	Ongoing

*See also the outputs of the previous specific objective.*

## 1.2 CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

### 1.2.1 Specific objective: To meet consumer expectations

The listed outputs regarding promotion policy aim at ensuring jobs and growth in rural areas by finding new markets, consolidate existing ones as well as raising awareness among consumers inside and outside Europe of the high standards and high quality of EU agricultural products.

Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment		
CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action		
Specific objective: To meet consumer expectations		Related to spending programme: EAGF-EAFRD
Main outputs in 2017:		
Other important outputs		
Description	Indicator	Target date
Management of running promotion programmes	Number of running, partially running or accepted programmes	December 2017: 150
Communication on the promotion scheme	Participation in 6-8 Info Days Lively Europa website (updated Q/A section...) Provide legal interpretation on the new regime	First Info Day on 31/01/2017. The other days will be fixed
Call for proposals	Publication of 2 annual calls for proposals (1 for Simple + 1 for Multi promotion programmes)	January 2017
Annual Work Programme for 2018	Adoption of an implementing decision	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2017
To ensure an appropriate follow-up of simple programmes under shared management with the Member States.	Committee for the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Markets established by Article 229 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	March 2017 and November 2017
	Commission Adoption of simple programmes	November 2017
Organisation of high level promotional events in third countries in 2016	2 high level missions with business delegation. Logistics organised by CHAFEA; political coordination by B1.	- May 2017: Canada - 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2017: Iran
	Number of participating stakeholders	Up to 60 EU producer organisations and/or SMEs involved in campaigns
Statistics	Development of a Common tool to be	On request

	able to follow simple/multi programmes managed under the promotion regime Delivery of statistics	
Coordination with Agency	Preparation and decisions of Steering Committees	Continuous task over the course of 2017

### **Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**

DG AGRI fosters a sustainable, low-carbon and climate friendly economy and contributes the achievement of the Commission general objective 3 "A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward Looking Climate Change Policy". The common CAP objective "sustainable management of natural resources and climate action" contributes to reaching the objective. For reaching this objective, different instruments and measures are provided in Pillar I and Pillar II. In Pillar I, farmers receive the green direct payment conditional to practices beneficial for the climate and the environment. In addition, the cross-compliance system links all direct payments, certain rural development payments and certain wine payments to a number of statutory requirements preserving environment and climate. Under Pillar II, the relevant programming priorities in relation to the Energy Union and Climate Change Policy are the ones referring to restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems as well as to promoting resource efficiency and the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors. Organic farming techniques also play a fundamental role in the sustainable management of natural resources and climate actions by minimizing the human impact on the environment. A key factor for fostering sustainability will be an effective knowledge transfer and innovation.

***1.2.2 Specific objective: Contribute to the enhancement of the environmental performance of the CAP, the development of sustainable agriculture and to making the CAP more compatible with the expectations of society through the greening component of the direct payments and the cross compliance system. Contribute to preventing soil erosion, maintaining soil organic matter and soil structure, ensuring a minimum level of maintenance and avoiding the deterioration of habitats, protecting and managing water through the standards of good agricultural and environmental condition of land***

#### **Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**

**CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action**

**Specific objective: Contribute to the enhancement of the environmental performance of the CAP, the development of sustainable agriculture and to making the CAP more compatible with the expectations of the society, through the greening component of the direct payments and the cross compliance system. Contribute to preventing soil erosion, maintaining soil organic matter and soil structure, ensuring a minimum level of maintenance and avoiding the deterioration of habitats, protecting and managing water through the standards of good agricultural and environmental condition of land**

Related to spending programme: EAGF

<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
2016/AGRI/016 Commission Delegated Regulation amending delegated regulation 639/2014 on rules for direct payments to farmers including greening (follow-up greening review)	Adoption	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017
2016/AGRI/017 Commission Implementing Regulation amending implementing regulation 641/2014 laying down on rules of application of regulation EU n° 1307/2013 (follow-up greening review)	Adoption	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
2016/AGRI/066 Commission report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Ecological Focus Area (EFA) obligation required further to Article 46(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 by 31 March 2017.	Commission report + accompanying analytical document	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017
Follow-up of the implementation of Greening and Cross-compliance: update of notifications , exchanges with MS including expert groups, legal interpretations and guidance	Organisation of experts groups and Committees Assessment notes on the MS notifications	All along the year
Evaluation of greening	Finalisation of staff working document	End 2017/beginning 2018

### **1.2.3 Specific objective: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (Priority 4)**

In relation to the specific objective, the ongoing review of the organic farming regulation aims at fostering the sustainability of the organic production sector by harmonizing European legislation thus creating a level playing field for all operators, improving controls, strengthen and uniform production rules avoiding derogations "à la carte" and as per the current proposal, strengthen and harmonise the pesticide residue issue. During 2017 it will be ensured that an effective supervision of the set up and functioning of the control system for organic production in Member States, recognised third countries and recognised control bodies for import of organic products will be duly carried out under current rules. A highly coordinated level of control and timely notification of irregularities from Member States are crucial to the correct implementation of the regulation in force and contribute to increasing the sustainable development of European agriculture and making it more compatible with society expectations. Promoting

equivalence with third countries has a snowball effect on the sustainable development of the organic production in particular by fostering exports, opening up new markets and reducing costs for certification. The positive effects of organic farming on the environment contribute to the achievements of the objectives of the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, the Green Infrastructure Communication, the Soil Thematic Strategy, the Nitrates directive, the Water Framework Directive and the National Emission Ceiling Directive.

<b>Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action</b>		
<b>Specific objective: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (Priority 4)</b>		Related to spending programme: EAFRD
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
New legislative and political framework on organic production	Finalisation of the reform on organic production and adoption by the European Parliament and the Council	2017
	Production of secondary legislation	2017 onwards
	Implementation of Action Plan for the future of Organic Production in the European Union	Ongoing
Effective supervision of the set up and functioning of the control system for organic production in Member States, recognised third countries and recognised control bodies for import of organic products	Contribution to FVO audits in Member States, recognised third countries and recognised control bodies for import of organic products	Continuous
	Assessment of annual reports	
	Follow-up to irregularities	
Effective supervision of MS handling of irregularities and fraud allegations related to EU organic production	Entry into force of the electronic certification of imported organic products from third countries	2017
	Timely notification of irregularities	continuous
	Timely reply to notified irregularities'	
Fostering organics by promoting equivalence with third countries.	Timely transmission of information on circulation of alleged fraudulent products and on remedial action	
	Number of negotiation on mutual recognition	Ongoing
	Number of on the spot mission to check the progress of the country	Ongoing
	Concluded negotiations	Ongoing
	Follow-up of equivalence arrangements with recognised third countries carried out, in particular USA, Canada and	Ongoing

	Switzerland	
	Signature and conclusion of the Trade agreement with Chile	2017
	Progress in negotiations for an equivalence agreement with Colombia, Ecuador and possibly Mexico	2017 onwards
	Extend to new products the equivalence arrangement with Japan	
	Progress in the development of a plurilateral arrangement	

*For this specific objective, please see the policy-related outputs and narrative provided under Specific objective: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest (Rural development Priority 2).*

**1.2.4 Specific objective: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors (Priority 5)**

**Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**

**CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action**

**Specific objective: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors (Priority 5)** Related to spending programme: EAFRD

*For this specific objective, please see the policy-related outputs and narrative provided under Specific objective: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest (Rural development Priority 2).*



## 1.3 CAP common objective: *Balanced territorial development*

### 1.3.1 Specific objective: *Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas (Priority 6)*

The tendering procedures for the setting-up of the Brussels-based "Support Facility for Broadband Competence Offices (BCO)" will be closed by the end of 2016, so that the Support Facility is planned to be fully operational in 2017. This Support Facility will facilitate the establishment of a BCO network, taking the form of contact points – both in Brussels and at national or regional level – which will inform and give advice on EU programming, public procurement, State aid or even technological and technical support to representatives of local and regional authorities. They will advise individual promoters on ways to invest effectively in broadband, preferably in combination with the use of Financial Instruments, thus promoting an effective delivery of ESIF allocated to broadband projects.

The three DGs concerned by the BCO (DG AGRI, DG REGIO and DG CNECT) will shortly identify together with national contact points operational priorities for the "Support Facility for BCOs", including as regards information and training needs. These will be included in an Annual Work Programme to be implemented in 2017.

A launching event for the BCO network will take place in early 2017 with high level contributions at the joint initiative of DG AGRI, DG CNECT and DG REGIO.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: <i>Balanced territorial development</i></b>		
<b>Specific objective: <i>Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas (Priority 6)</i></b>	Related to spending programme: EAFRD	
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Broadband Competence Office (BCO)	Brussels-based Broadband Competence Office is operational	2017
BCO Network	Launching event of the BCO Network	First quarter 2017
Annual Work Programme (AWP) of the Support Facility for BCOs	Implementation of activities included in the AWP 2017	2017

*See also the outputs related to the European Network for Rural Development under the Specific objective "Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest (Priority 2)".*

**1.3.2 Specific objective: To promote local agricultural production and to ensure a fair level of prices for commodities for direct consumption and for processing by local industries in the Outermost Regions of the EU and in the Aegean Islands**

See table under point 1.3.3

**1.3.3 Specific objective: Specific Supply Arrangements (SSA) to ensure the supply of essential products: SSA coverage rate (relation between quantities of products benefiting from SSA support and total quantities of the same products introduced in the respective outermost region)**

All these policy oriented outputs aim at ensuring that the delivery modes related to POSEI supports schemes are in place at all levels (EU and national), thus ensuring that their objectives are fulfilled.

For example, meetings of the expert group on direct payment and of the committee on direct payment ensure that Member States authorities are consulted on the draft delegated and implementing act for POSEI, as well as POSEI decisions, are provided with guidance for their implementation, and are given detailed instructions as regards the monitoring and the reporting to Commission services.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development</b>		
<b>Specific objective: To promote local agricultural production and to ensure a fair level of prices for commodities for direct consumption and for processing by local industries in the Outermost Regions of the EU and in the Aegean Islands</b>	Related to spending programme: EAGF	
<b>Specific objective: Specific Supply Arrangements (SSA) to ensure the supply of essential products: SSA coverage rate (relation between quantities of products benefiting from SSA support and total quantities of the same products introduced in the respective outermost region)</b>		
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme</b>		
-		
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
2016/AGRI/005 General report to be presented to the European Parliament and to the Council showing the impact of the action taken under Regulation (EU) No 228/2013 (art.32 of	Transmission from the Commission to EP and Council of the Report	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017

<p>this Regulation). This report will be partially based on the results of the external evaluation launched in 2015 under the REFIT programme to be formally completed with the preparation of a Staff Working Document by the Commission services.</p>		
<p>2016/AGRI/006 General report to be presented to the European Parliament and to the Council showing the impact of the action taken under Regulation (EU) No 229/2013 (art.20 of this Regulation). This report will be partially based on the results of the external evaluation launched in 2015 under the REFIT programme to be formally completed with the preparation of a Staff Working Document by the Commission services..</p>	<p>Transmission from the Commission to EP and Council of the Report</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2017</p>
<p><b>Other important outputs</b></p>		
<p><i>Output</i></p>	<p><i>Indicator</i></p>	<p><i>Target</i></p>
<p>2016/AGRI/007 Modification of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 180/2014.</p>	<p>Adoption by the College and published in EUOJ</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2017</p>
<p>2016/AGRI/008 Modification of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 181/2014.</p>	<p>Adoption by the College and published in EUOJ</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2017</p>
<p>Commission decisions and DG letters for amendments approvals (according to kind of modifications)</p>	<p>Date of notification to the MS</p>	<p>2017</p>

## **1.4 Specific objectives contributing to more than one Juncker priority and to more than one of the above CAP common objectives.**

### **1.4.1 Specific objective: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas (RD Priority 1)**

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Viable food production</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development</b>		
<b>Specific objective: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas (RD Priority 1)</b>		Related to spending programme: EAFRD
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
EIP-AGRI events	5 New Focus Groups launched 10 Focus Group meetings 4 workshops 1 Seminar 3 meetings of the Innovation Subgroup	2017
EIP-AGRI publications	1 magazine (Agrinnovation) 10 factsheets 4 brochures 12 newsletters 24 press articles	2017

The EIP-AGRI (European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability) connects rural actors to speed up innovation in agriculture and rural areas and thus contributes to the realisation of the Rural Development Priorities, in particular Priority 1. Through its networking activities such as events and publications, it brings together innovation actors (farmers, advisers, researchers, businesses, NGOs and others) to co-create and exchange knowledge and to develop concrete innovation project ideas, eg for operational groups which can be funded under the rural development programmes.

### **1.4.2 Specific objective: Societal challenges - to secure sufficient supplies of safe and high quality food and other bio-based products, by developing productive and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services and the recovery of biological diversity, alongside competitive and low carbon supply, processing and marketing chains**

**Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**  
**Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**

CAP common objective: Viable food production

CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development

The following objective also contributes to H2020 objective "To build an economy based on knowledge and innovation across the whole Union, while contributing to sustainable development"

**Specific objective: Societal challenges - to secure sufficient supplies of safe and high quality food and other bio-based products, by developing productive and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services and the recovery of biological diversity, alongside competitive and low carbon supply, processing and marketing chains**

Related to spending programme: Horizon 2020

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Grants	Budget allocated to grants	EUR 237,124,000

**Other important outputs**

Description	Indicator	Target date
Proposal submission for 2017 calls	Proposals submitted (first deadline)	February 2017
Proposals selected for funding from 2017 calls	Proposals selected for funding	December 2017
2018-2020 Work Programme	Calls published	November 2017

The development and implementation of multi-annual work programmes and calls for proposals under the EU Research Framework Programme Horizon 2020 contributes through public investment in research and innovation actions to the establishment of a knowledge based EU agriculture and rural economy and to the development of a sustainable primary production system.

**1.4.3 Specific objective: To contribute to the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas in the three countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia) eligible for Sapard support until 2009**

Expenditure under SAPARD programmes in the three countries has ended some years ago. In the meantime, these countries have become members of the EU and are successfully participating in implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy. Successful transition of the three pre-accession countries at the time of the launch of the instrument into the EU Member States is an indication of the effectiveness of the SAPARD instrument in agricultural sector. Closure of the programmes is the only outstanding

administrative technical step, which should not have major implications on the Member States concerned.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 9: A stronger global actor</b>		
CAP common objective: Viable food production		
CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action		
CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development		
The following objective also contributes to IPA objective "support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I [of IPA II Regulation] in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to Union's rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership."		
<b>Specific objective: To contribute to the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas in the three countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia) eligible for Sapard support until 2009<sup>8</sup></b>		Related to spending programme: IPARD
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
SAPARD programmes of HR, RO and BG closed.	Final balance settled for the SAPARD programmes of HR, RO and BG.	2017

**1.4.4 Specific objective: To contribute to the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas and to the new Member State Croatia's and Candidate Countries' preparation for the implementation of the acquis communautaire concerning the CAP and related policies under IPARD 2007-2013 (IPARD I) by: 1. improving market efficiency and implementation of Union standards, 2. preparatory actions for the implementation of the agri-environmental measures and local rural development strategies, 3. development of the rural economy**

By providing investment support for upgrading of agricultural production and processing to EU standards, the programme for Croatia has helped in preparing for EU accession. Payment under the programme for Croatia and Turkey has already ceased, while it is expected to end for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by the end of 2017. The programmes will continue contributing to improving market efficiency and implementation of Union standards, preparatory actions for the implementation of the

<sup>8</sup> This objective concerning only the closure of the programme (until 2009) is not present in the DG AGRI Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

agri-environmental measures and local rural development strategies as well as development of the rural economy of the respective countries.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 9: A stronger global actor</b>		
CAP common objective: Viable food production		
CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action		
CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development		
The following objective also contributes to IPA objective "support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I [of IPA II Regulation] in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to Union's rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership."		
<b>Specific objective: To contribute to the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas and to the new Member State Croatia's and Candidate Countries' preparation for the implementation of the acquis communautaire concerning the CAP and related policies under IPARD 2007-2013 (IPARD I) by: 1. improving market efficiency and implementation of Union standards, 2. preparatory actions for the implementation of the agri-environmental measures and local rural development strategies, 3. development of the rural economy<sup>9</sup>.</b>		Related to spending programme: IPARD
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Improving market efficiency and implementation of Union standards (AXIS 1)	Number of applications received	833 in HR 2890 in fYRoM 3995 in TR
Improving market efficiency and implementation of Union standards (AXIS 1)	Number of applications approved	514 in HR 2330 in fYRoM 2448 in TR

<sup>9</sup> The targets have been set for the programming period 2007 – 2013. Yet, article 166(3) of the *old* Financial Regulation (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 248, 16.9.2002) provides for a final implementation only in 2016 (n+3 Rule).

<p>Preparatory actions for the implementation of the agri-environmental measures and local rural development strategies (AXIS 2)</p> <p>Development of the rural economy (AXIS 3)</p>	<p>Local rural development strategies</p> <p>A) Number of applications received</p> <p>B) Number of applications approved</p> <p>C) Number of recognised LAGs</p> <p>D) Total population of LAGs</p> <p>Diversification of rural economy</p> <p>A) Number of applications received</p> <p>B) Number of applications approved</p>	<p>In HR</p> <p>A) 40</p> <p>B) 25</p> <p>C) 25</p> <p>D) 1.055.000</p> <p>A) 380 in HR 229 in fYRoM</p> <p>B) 350 in HR 155 in fYRoM 5121 in TR</p>
<p>End payments under the last programme – in the the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p>	<p>Payments to beneficiaries under the last running IPARD I programme closed</p>	<p>2017</p>
<p><b>Other important outputs</b></p>		
<p>Output</p>	<p>Indicator</p>	<p>Target</p>
<p>Management of the implementation of three IPARD programmes 2007-2013.</p>	<p>Percentage of the relevant IPARD allocation contracted and paid in line with the principles of sound financial management</p>	<p>2017</p>

\* By the end of the programmes – Croatia and Turkey already ended, contracting for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will end in 2017.



**1.4.5 Specific objective: Supporting the development of management and control systems which are compliant with good governance standards of a modern public administration and where the relevant country structures apply standards equivalent to those in similar organisations in the Member States of the European Union**

IPARD assistance is disbursed in line with the principles of good governance, ensuring the sound financial management of EU funds. While in the EU Member States this is evident, in pre-accession countries setting-up structures corresponding to those present in the Member States most often requires reform of public administrations and is time-consuming. Planned outputs this year will allow (1) finalising transition from IPARD I to IPARD II for countries where the structures have already been set-up (Turkey and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and (2) starting implementation of IPARD II in countries which are just now finalising the process of administrative reforms and establishing institutional capacities.

**Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**  
**Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market**  
**Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**  
**Commission General Objective 9: A stronger global actor**

**CAP common objective: Viable food production**

**CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action**

**CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development**

The following objective also contributes to IPA objective "support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I [of IPA II Regulation] in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to Union's rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership."

**Specific objective: Supporting the development of management and control systems which are compliant with good governance standards of a modern public administration and where the relevant country structures apply standards equivalent to those in similar organisations in the Member States of the European Union**

Related to spending programme: IPARD

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Management and control systems ready to start implementation of the programmes	Entrustment of budget implementation tasks granted on a number of measures under individual country IPARD programmes	Entrustment at least for some measures under the five programmes. Expected total by 2020 – 32 entrustments.
All legal and institutional arrangements in	Conclusion and annual amendments of the Financing Agreements with IPARD Beneficiary countries.	Financing Agreements concluded with all IPA II Beneficiary countries

place to start implementation of IPARD 2014-2020		having received entrustment of budget implementation tasks under indirect management.
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Smooth transition between IPARD I and IPARD II programmes in Turkey and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, start of implementation in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia.	TK and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ready to start contracting under IPARD II; contracting also starts in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia.	2017

***1.4.6 Specific objective: IPARD II 2014-2020: To increase the food-safety of the IPA II beneficiary and the ability of their agri-food sector to cope with competitive pressure as well as to progressively align the sector with Union standards, in particular those concerning hygiene and environment, while pursuing balanced territorial development of rural areas***

Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2016 were still completing IPARD I. Albania, Montenegro and Serbia in 2017 are expected for the first time to start management of EU budget under IPA / IPARD rules. Therefore, bearing in mind the challenges of the preparatory work and dependence of this specific objective on the progress under the previous specific objective, the most tangible expected success this year would be commencement of the programmes. Even though if direct contribution of delivery of the planned outputs for this year towards achievement of this specific objective will be limited, it will prepare the ground for effective implementation in the years to come.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>
<b>Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market</b>
<b>Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy</b>
<b>Commission General Objective 9: A stronger global actor</b>
<b>CAP common objective: Viable food production</b>
<b>CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action</b>
<b>CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development</b>
<b>The following objective also contributes to IPA objective "support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I [of IPA II Regulation] in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to Union's rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership."</b>

**Specific objective: IPARD II 2014-2020: To increase the food-safety of the IPA II beneficiary and the ability of their agri-food sector to cope with competitive pressure as well as to progressively align the sector with Union standards, in particular those concerning hygiene and environment, while pursuing balanced territorial development of rural areas**

Related to spending programme: IPARD

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target*</i>
Start of contracting	Number of economic entities performing modernisation projects in agri-food sector	6450
Start of contracting	Number of economic entities developing additional or diversified sources of income in rural areas	3300
Start of contracting	Overall investment in physical capital in agri-food and rural development (EUR) (investment in machines, equipment, production facilities made by farmers, food processing and marketing enterprises as well as micro and small enterprises in rural areas)	EUR 2.29 billion
Start of contracting	Number of economic entities progressively upgrading towards EU standards  Definition: Number of farmers and food processing and marketing enterprises progressively upgrading to EU environmental, food safety and hygiene, occupational standards	4440

**Other important outputs**

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Start of implementation of IPARD II programmes	First calls for applications carried out under the five programmes	2017

\* Target established for the entire programming period (with N+3 rule, implementation will continue until 2023).

**1.4.7 Specific objective: To promote the EU agricultural sector by contributing to successful negotiation and cooperation within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other multilateral organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**

Timely and appropriate EU contributions in the negotiating forums on agriculture in the WTO should lead to successful outcomes at WTO Ministerial Conferences, given the EU's key role at the WTO. This should lead to a further levelling of trading conditions, leading to an improved situation for EU agri-food exporters. The successful conclusion of the Article XXIV:6 negotiations following EU enlargement is an obligation for the EU in order to avoid trading partners suspending trade concessions made to the EU, which would harm EU exporters. EU accession to the Lisbon Agreement will allow better protection of EU geographical indications outside the EU and so better enable European operators to prevent unauthorised exploitation of their protected designations and, in return, to get compensation for their investment.

The OECD Agricultural Ministerial on 7-8 April 2016 at which Commissioner Hogan participated for the EU, adopted guidelines for the OECD work for the following years under the title "Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Food System". Based on these guidelines, a new programme of work 2017-18 for the Committee for Agriculture was adopted on 18-20 May. As chef-de-file for agricultural matters in OECD, DG AGRI is responsible for the follow-up of this work in the coming biennium.

<b>Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>Commission General Objective 9: A stronger global actor</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Viable food production</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action</b>		
<b>CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development</b>		
<b>Specific objective: To promote the EU agricultural sector by contributing to successful negotiation and cooperation within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other multilateral organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).</b>		Related to spending programme: N/A
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
WTO Agricultural negotiations	Contributions to the negotiations on the post-Nairobi agenda, notably in preparation for the 11 <sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (Buenos Aires, 11-14 December 2017).	Throughout 2017, notably for each Special Session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture
Finalisation and implementation of negotiations under GATT Article XXIV.6 on compensatory	Contributions made to negotiations, and their conclusion and implementation	End 2017

adjustments		
OECD activities related to agriculture, food and rural development	Attend all relevant meetings (minimum, n=8) Review all OECD papers and provide comments according to EU policy objectives	Throughout 2017, notably each session of the OECD Committee for Agriculture and its working parties
Influence of agriculture policy in UN (notably FAO), GFFA, G-20 (agriculture) and G-7 (agriculture).	a. List of key committees in which AGRI participates and speaks in main FAO and IFAD bodies (especially FAO Conference) b. Number of SDG-indicators for Agenda 2030 affecting agriculture policy that are adopted. c. Extent to which conclusions of GFFA, G-20, G-7 and other agricultural ministerials reflect or are compatible with EU policy.	a. 31 December 2017 b. 30/12/2017 c. As dates of each ministerial.
Proposal to the Council on EU accession to the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin (2016/AGRI/076)	Adoption of proposal; EU accession.	End 2017

## ***Commission General Objective 6: A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the US***

Agriculture and food sector are at the heart of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Both the EU and the US can gain economically from liberalising two-way agricultural trade, including trade in high quality value added products. Following the presidential elections in the US, there is some uncertainty on the outlook for the negotiations for a Free Trade and Investment agreement (TTIP) with the US. DG AGRI has contributed and stands ready to further contribute to the conclusion of a TTIP Agreement that leads to an increase in two-way trade, and in EU exports of agricultural and food products to the US and a balanced agreement that benefits both parties, while ensuring that highly sensitive sectors in the EU are not threatened, and without compromising our high food safety standards. DG AGRI thus directly contributes to the Commission general objective 6 "A Reasonable and Balanced free Trade Agreement with the U.S." via the common CAP objective 1: To promote a viable food production.

***1.4.8 Specific objective: To improve market access for agricultural products through: negotiating or revising bilateral agreements; resolving trade irritants; securing protection for EU geographical indications in third countries via negotiating relevant provisions within Free Trade or Association Agreements or stand-alone agreements; carrying out dialogues with strategic partners in agriculture and cooperation activities; and contributing to sustainable economic development in particular in developing countries.***

A significant amount of DG Agri's international activity is the negotiation of the agricultural part of free trade agreements. The goals we have set here are to improve market access for EU agricultural and food products (including protection of geographical indications) in often growing and attractive markets, while at the same time ensuring that our most sensitive sectors can be protected. 2017 should see the conclusion of some important agreements (such as Japan and Norway), the continuation of others (notably TTIP with the USA), and the opening of others. In addition, our outputs include strengthening cooperation on agricultural issues (quality policy, rural development policy, research and innovation etc) with key partners, and the removal or reduction of obstacles to our market access. With our partners in the European neighbourhood these objectives are often coupled with initiatives to assist the alignment of their agricultural policies and their markets with that of the EU.

Regarding relations with ACP countries, the goals we have set (outputs) are intended to strengthen the EU's voice in global agricultural policy and contribute to development of the rural sector of ACP countries through trade and investment, notably through effective implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreements. Improvements to the rural economies of these countries will directly contribute to reducing pressures for irregular migration (cf. Valletta Action Plan) and improving food security (cf. zero-hunger challenge of Agenda 2030). Implementation of the agricultural components of the seven EPAs also requires demonstration that the EU is supporting regional integration and trade in agricultural products. In the longer term, economic development of these countries will make them even more attractive markets for EU agriculture and food exports.

With the reform of the CAP to a policy that is essentially non trade-distorting and thus compatible with development objectives, the EU has a better opportunity to influence global agriculture policy. The main fora to do so are in the UN (notably FAO), the G 20 (agriculture) and G-7 (agriculture). The policies we are promoting include sustainable agricultural practices, balanced territorial development, responsible investment in agriculture, and the development of regional trade and international trade in agricultural products.

**Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**  
**Commission General Objective 6: A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the US**

CAP common objective: Viable food production

CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development

**Specific objective: To improve market access for agricultural products through: negotiating or revising bilateral agreements; resolving trade irritants; securing protection for EU geographical indications in third countries via negotiating relevant provisions within Free Trade or Association Agreements or stand-alone agreements; carrying out dialogues with strategic partners in agriculture and cooperation activities; and contributing to sustainable economic development in particular in developing countries.**

Related to spending programme: N/A

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**Other important outputs**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Monitoring of EU agri-food trade	Monthly analysis and publication of latest developments in EU agri-food trade	Monthly publication
Implementation of full EPAs in: East African Community; SADC-EPA Group; West Africa; CARIFORUM	a. implementation (or preparation for implementation) of agricultural sub-committees/dialogues, b. value of development projects that support EPA implementation in agricultural and agri-business sector c. finalisation of CARIFORUM GI protection (2016/AGRI/032).	30.12.2017 for all
Implementation of interim EPAs in Eastern and Southern Africa; Central Africa; Pacific	Monitoring of agreements and possible development of informal agricultural dialogues. Number of contributions to events pursuant to agreements	30.12.2017
Addressing Root causes of irregular migration from SSA	List of initiatives promoting agribusiness investment	30.12.2017
Building partnerships with International Organisations, AUC, ACP and selected countries	Number of agriculture policy (incl. GI) initiatives & events	30.12.2017
<b>Tunisia:</b> contribution to DCFTA	Continuation of bilateral negotiations	2018-2019
<b>Morocco:</b> conclusion of a GI agreement	Adoption by Council and Parliament and implementation of the Agreement	2016-2017
<b>Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine:</b> Association Agreement including	Implementation, approximation monitoring (including update of GIs lists).	2017

DCFTA	Possible start of discussions on review clause with Moldova.	
<b>Armenia:</b> negotiation of a new Framework Agreement including GIs	Negotiations started in 2016	2017
<b>Azerbaijan :</b> negotiation of a new Agreement including GIs	Negotiations to start in 2017.	2017-2018
<b>Russia, Turkey, Serbia:</b> resolving trade irritants	Contribute to the resolution of ongoing trade bans and/or safeguard measures	2017
<b>Iran:</b> dialogue	Possible establishment of Dialogue on agriculture cooperation + visit of HL business mission by Commissioner Hogan	2017
<b>Lebanon:</b> dialogue	Participate in discussions of the Trade and Investment working group lead by DG TRADE	2017
<b>Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan:</b> dialogue	Dialogue and agriculture and cooperation (including on GI's, organic farming, etc..)	2017
2015/AGRI/030 and 2015/AGRI/031: Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion and the signature of an EU- <b>Iceland</b> agreement on protection of geographical indications	Council adoption with EP consent	Planned 2017
2015/AGRI/035 and 2015/AGRI/036: Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion and the signature of an EU- <b>Iceland</b> Article 19 agreement on further trade liberalisation	Council adoption with EP consent	Planned 2017
2015/AGRI/080 and 2015/AGRI/081 Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion and the signature of an agreement between the European Union and <b>Chile</b> on trade in organic products	Council adoption with EP consent	Planned 2017
2015/AGRI/037 and 2015/AGRI/038 Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion and the signature of an EU-	Council adoption with EP consent	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2017



<b>Norway</b> Article 19 agreement on further trade liberalisation		
<b>Canada:</b> CETA	EP consent and provisional application	Early 2017
<b>US:</b> TTIP	Stand ready to continue negotiations	2017
<b>Mexico:</b> modernisation of existing global agreement	Continuation of negotiations	2017
<b>Central America:</b> Free Trade Agreement implementation	Continuation of monitoring of implementation	2017
<b>Peru-Colombia-Ecuador:</b> Free Trade Agreement implementation and accession of Ecuador	Monitoring of implementation	2017
<b>Mercosur</b>	Continuation of negotiations	2017
<b>Chile:</b> modernisation of existing association agreement	Preparatory work in cooperation with DG TRADE, notably to produce a robust impact assessment, scoping papers and negotiating directives to reflect EU priorities. Launch of negotiations	2017
<b>China:</b> agreement on protection of geographical indications (2011/AGRI/008 and 2025/AGRI/058)	Continuation and possible conclusion of negotiations	First semester 2017
<b>Japan:</b> Free Trade Agreement negotiations	Continuation and possible conclusion of negotiations	First semester 2017
<b>Philippines and Indonesia:</b> Free Trade Agreement negotiations	Continuation of negotiations	2017
<b>Australia/New Zealand:</b> Free Trade Agreement negotiations	Preparatory work in cooperation with DG TRADE, notably to produce a robust impact assessment, scoping papers and negotiating directives to reflect EU priorities. Launch of negotiations	First semester 2017
<b>India, Thailand, Malaysia:</b> Free Trade Agreements	Talks towards possible resumption of negotiations	2017
<b>Korea:</b> Free Trade Agreement implementation	Continuation of monitoring of implementation	2017
<b>China:</b> cooperation activities in the field of agriculture and rural development	Continuation of cooperation resulting in avoidance of new trade barriers.	2017

***1.4.9 Specific objective: To promote the EU interests and positions on agriculture and rural development in the relations with enlargement countries and to assist the enlargement countries in their alignment to the CAP***

Ensuring that the accession negotiations, to be undertaken with Montenegro and Serbia, in the agriculture and rural development chapter of the acquis, are well focused and structured will mean that the EU has the opportunity to guide and influence the key decisions on policy and implementation towards a well-functioning common agricultural policy. This is done via consultations, meetings, video-conferences, regular reporting, support to selective training events and participation in annual committees.

The proper application and the effective enforcement of EU rules by the public administrations are essential for the functioning of the Common Agricultural Policy. DG AGRI's activity in this regard is to closely guide and monitor the development of the structures and systems necessary in the enlargement countries, together with ensuring that the capacity exists for the implementation of rural development measures, direct payment schemes, common market organisation and EU quality policies.

Bosnia and Herzegovina presented its application for membership of the EU. The Commission has to submit its Opinion on this application to assess the country's capacity to comply with the criteria for membership. DG AGRI will contribute to the analysis, on the basis of the detailed questionnaire that will be sent to the country, covering all chapters of the acquis, including agriculture.

Modernisation of the customs union and enhancing bilateral trade relations in agricultural goods will improve and facilitate the access of EU goods to Turkey, reinforce already strong trade relations and consolidate bilateral relations.

**Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**  
**Commission General Objective 9: A stronger global actor**

CAP common objective: Viable food production

CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development

**Specific objective: To promote the EU interests and positions on agriculture and rural development in the relations with enlargement countries and to assist the enlargement countries in their alignment to the CAP** Related to spending programme: N/A

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**Other important outputs**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
<b>All enlargement countries</b>	Alignment to the Common Agricultural Policy	Accession date (unknown)
<b>Turkey</b> : revision of agricultural agreement	Adoption of negotiation directives by Council	2017
<b>Montenegro</b> : negotiations on agriculture chapter in accession negotiations	Opening of negotiations on chapter agriculture	2016-2017
<b>Serbia</b> : negotiations on agriculture chapter in accession negotiations	Examination of action plan prepared by Serbia and contribution to opening benchmark's assessment preceding opening of negotiations	2017
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina:</b> Analysis of application	Contribution to the questionnaire sent to the BiH authorities in preparation of the opinion of the country's membership application, to be submitted to the Council.	2016-2018

#### ***1.4.10 Specific objective: To facilitate decision-making on strategic choices for the CAP and to support other activities of the DG by means of economic and policy analyses and studies***

The provision and analysis of high-quality data is the foundation for evidence-based decision-making. Robust evidence-based market and policy analysis contribute to the strategic orientation of the CAP.

Analytical work on the mid and long-term evolution of the CAP, monitoring and follow-up of the developments at the Member State level and cross-cutting policy analysis are needed to facilitate decision-making and support the preparation of robust policy proposals. Furthermore, short and medium economic analysis, modelling and the statistical coordination provide the ground to guarantee strategic choices and policy decisions based on evidence.

This requires anticipation (outlook) and investments (models, data, skilled staff, culture of evidence-based policy making, both in AGRI and in the JRC). The AGRI Agricultural Outlook is internationally acknowledged as best practice in preparing market and income projections, which represent a solid base for policy simulations (e.g. impact of trade agreements, GHG emission targets, greening, etc).

The FADN is the only source of harmonised accounting data of agricultural holdings in the EU, which are used in a wide range of policy analyses, including scenarios for future policy developments. European statistics provided by Eurostat equally underpin all policy analyses and are essential for the majority of context and impact indicators defined for the monitoring and evaluation of the CAP. The AGRI GIS service provides maps and spatial analyses to visualise data and to highlight the geographical distribution of policy measures and impacts.

#### **CAP simplifying and modernising**

DG AGRI will take forward work and consult widely on simplification and modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy to maximise its contribution to the Commission's ten priorities and to the Sustainable Development Goals. This will focus on specific policy priorities for the future, taking account of the opinion of the REFIT Platform, and without prejudice to the Commission proposal to revise the Multiannual Financial Framework.

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**Commission General Objective 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**  
**Commission General Objective 6: A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the US**

**CAP common objective: Viable food production**

**CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action**

**CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development**

**Specific objective: To facilitate decision-making on strategic choices for the CAP and to support other activities of the DG by means of economic and policy analyses and studies** Related to spending programmes: EAGF-EAFRD

**Main outputs in 2017:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Simplification and modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy	Public consultation	1 <sup>st</sup> half 2017

**Other important outputs**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
<b>AGRICULTURAL POLICY ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the definition of the long-term strategy for the CAP</li> <li>Follow-up of the implementation of the CAP 2014-2020;</li> <li>Follow-up of policy developments in fields relevant for agriculture and rural development (environmental and climate policies, trade negotiations, employment policies, etc.), both at global and EU level;</li> </ul>	Notes and documents on the CAP post-2020	On request
	Follow-up of the implementation of the CAP post 2014-2020	Updated mapping of MS policy choices
	Support to other policy initiatives (sustainable food, etc.)	On time contributions to other policy initiatives
<b>COUNTRY INTELLIGENCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of agricultural policy developments in Member States and policy positions in the field of agriculture;</li> <li>Analysis of documents on the evolution of agriculture and rural areas from Member States</li> </ul>	Monitoring of policy development in MS	Ongoing
	Data, analysis, fact sheets and briefings on MS	Coordination of an AGRI internal network on country intelligence

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other data collection and analysis</li> </ul>		
<b>OUTLOOK</b> To provide short- and medium-term outlook for EU agricultural markets and income, to assess the likely developments in the current policy framework and under alternative scenarios	Report on medium-term prospects for agricultural commodity markets published paper/electronic versions	Publish new Report before end of the year 2017
	Organisation of the EU agricultural outlook conference providing an opportunity for a broad exchange of views on the state of EU agriculture and global challenges and for presenting the Outlook to a wider public (more than 400 participants, in presence of Commissioner Hogan).	First week of December
	Timely publication of 3 reports on short-term outlook for agricultural commodity markets	Reports to be published in March, July, October 2017
	Monthly updates of grains balance sheets, for management committee and G20-AMIS	Monthly reporting.
	Set of internal and public reports and notes (specific sector and market/policy developments)	On request
<b>MODELLING AND ANALYSIS</b> Development, maintenance and use of quantitative analysis tools like partial equilibrium models both at macro- and micro-economic level, biophysical models and other forward looking methods.	Operational platform of economic and biophysical models and related databases (in collaboration with JRC).  Main use: trade, environment, biofuels, climate and CAP analysis.	Operational tools for timely results  Analyses on request.
<b>DATA INTEGRATION</b> To co-ordinate the statistical needs related to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the CAP.  To analyse the food supply chain especially price formation.	Monthly dashboard of EU and world commodity prices, including along the food supply chain	Monthly updates.
	Up-dating and maintenance of AgriView	Ongoing
<b>MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF FADN LEGISLATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the new Farm Return (Regulations 1217/2009, 1198/2014 and 2015/220)</li> <li>Monitoring and development</li> </ul>	Maintenance and support of the RICA Information Systems	100 % availability of the system to users (outside maintenance periods)
	Enhancement of RICA2 functionality	All business requirements implemented as scheduled

<p>of the IT system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation of the FADN data to the CAP evolution and requirements/demands for the analyses</li> <li>• Improve the efficiency and the performance of the FADN reporting</li> </ul>		
<p>ECONOMIC ANALYSES</p> <p>High quality economic analyses based in particular on FADN data in line with the needs of DG AGRI for the assessment of policy proposals (ex-ante) and CAP measures (ex-post).</p>	<p>Delivery of relevant and high quality data for specific analyses supporting policy development of CAP after 2020</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Delivery of relevant ad-hoc analysis and special FADN reports</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Finalisation of FADN annual reports</p>	Before 30 September 2017
<p>STATISTICAL COORDINATION AND ANALYSES</p> <p>Coordinate the information needs of DG AGRI within DG AGRI and with ESTAT and ensure their dissemination</p> <p>Contribute to Commission proposals on legislation for agricultural statistics (e.g. Framework Regulation on integrated Farm Statistics; Framework Regulation on Statistics for Agricultural Inputs and Outputs)</p> <p>Provide updates of statistical factsheets and CAP context indicators</p> <p>Analyse the evolution of farm structures and agricultural income based on statistics</p>	<p>Contribute to the development of Eurostat's framework regulations on integrated farm surveys and statistics on agricultural inputs and outputs</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Contribution to the development and implementation of Eurostat's work programme in agricultural statistics, in line with DG AGRI's data needs</p>	Ongoing
	<p>2017 update of statistical country factsheets</p>	March 2017
	<p>2017 update of CAP context indicators</p>	December 2017
	<p>2017 update of farm income developments</p>	December 2017
	<p>Contribute to the December Outlook conference with analyses on farm structural change</p>	November 2017
<p>GIS support to statistics and economic/policy analysis</p>	<p>Increase the number of DG AGRI units using the service. Maintain or increase the number of maps and data analyses produced.</p>	Ongoing

## **PART 2. MAIN ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR**

### ***A. Human resource management***

The HR Modernisation project implemented according to the Communication on Synergies and Efficiencies of April 2016 makes changes to the way that HR services are delivered. HR services will be delivered by an Account Management Centre (AMC) inside DG HR. Each DG will have an HR Business Correspondent (BC), responsible for defining HR strategy and taking HR decisions, in consultation with the management of the DG, as well as ensuring that the DG gets the HR service it needs, in cooperation with the AMC.

Full roll-out for this new HR delivery model is planned for July 2017. DG AGRI will join the second pilot phase starting on 16 January 2017. As from 1<sup>st</sup> of January, when the reorganisation enters into force, the HR Business Correspondent will be part of the new unit R.5, a unit dealing also with internal communication, document management and security. The Business Correspondent will work with the AMC 2 which will serve the following group of DGs: AGRI, EAC, ENER, MARE, MOVE, RTD, SANTE.

The timing of the transition to the HR Modernisation coincides with a substantial reorganisation of DG AGRI, leading to the suppression of one directorate and 6 units. This reorganisation streamlines the DG's structure and resources around core activities and aims at reaching efficiency gains through the rationalisation of certain administrative support activities in order to respond to staff reduction targets agreed for the period until end 2018.

The first half of 2017 will therefore be a pivotal period for the HR BC as it has to implement the reorganisation with all its practical implications (such as staff mobility and office moves) and at the same time ensure a smooth handover to the AMC 2 which will still be in pilot mode.

An important part of the annual HR work programme that used to be managed by the HR unit will be implemented by the AMC in DG HR: the organisation of the local learning and development offer, the management of leave and absences, the support provided to units for the recruitment of officials and external staff, the organisation of the yearly appraisal exercise or welcoming newcomers. In 2017, the priority for the HR BC will be to accompany the transition and through active participation in the pilot phase ensure that HR services provided to DG AGRI staff and management by the AMC are of the same quality than in the previous HR delivery model. The HR BC will also negotiate a service level agreement with the AMC on specific activities for DG AGRI.

The beginning of the year 2017 will also be marked by the integration of several new Heads of Unit from other DGs and the preparations for the second exercise of the inter-DG mobility for middle managers. In this context, particular attention will be put on the evolution of DG AGRI's female representation rate in management. DG AGRI HR BC will ensure that the positive trend (29% on 1/09/16 versus 24% on 1/11/2014) leads towards DG AGRI's target in 2019 (35% of female middle management). Middle management selection procedures already take full account of gender equality issues and applications by female colleagues are actively encouraged. However, the contraction of DG AGRI's organisation chart by 6 units will inevitably have a negative impact on its capacity to propose new first appointments to middle management functions. Reflections on how to make further progress are ongoing but can only materialise and take more concrete shape once the situation of the DG will be more stable, possibly in the second half of 2017<sup>10</sup>.

Strategic HR management and forward planning will remain key for any decision on staff allocation while the DG will progress in delivering on its staff reduction schedule. The HR

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<sup>10</sup> The specific context for DG AGRI was explained in a note from Commissioner Hogan to Vice President Georgieva ([Ares\(2016\)6019168](#) of 19/10/2016)



BC will play a key role in advising and supporting management on reflections on efficiency gains, resource implications of new or additional tasks and initiatives and the identification of negative priorities. In this context the HR BC will follow closely the development of the new corporate ATLAS tool which aims at combining task mapping and workload assessment based on a methodology initially elaborated by DG AGRI.

The situation for DG AGRI is challenging and staff reductions applied since 2012 are having a concrete and direct impact on workload and staff morale. Moreover, the staff reduction targets agreed for the next years will require significant additional efforts. Although staff engagement figures in 2016 continue to be above the Commission average (65.5% in 2016 versus 64% in 2014), they are decreasing compared to past years and the difference to the Commission average is less important. Staff well-being figures continue to be low (32%) and are below the Commission average (36%). A priority for the HR BC will therefore be to build on actions started in 2016 (rationalisation of procedures and fairer distribution of workload through the reorganisation) and - together with the AMC - implement initiatives that have proved their positive contribution to staff engagement in the past years (Learning week, Well-being programme, Health days, Career days, etc.).

The main outputs which should result from the actions in 2016 are presented in the table below, accompanied by indicators and targets.

<b>Objective (mandatory): DG AGRI deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission's priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.</b>		
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Efficient and effective staff allocation	Vacancy rate	= or < Commission average just after posts were returned to central services
Strategic, forward planning HR management	Posts returned to DG HR (i.e. staff reduction and staff redeployment)	within deadlines
Women in management positions	Female representation rate in middle management	= or > 2016 rate
Staff allocation according to interest and competences	Overall job satisfaction	= or > Commission average results in next HR survey
Staff health	Sick leave rate	= or < Commission average for the same period
Staff well-being	Well-being indicator in Commission staff survey	= or > Commission average results in next HR survey
Management of administrative budget	Budget execution (commitments)	> 95% by end of the year
Internal communication	Staff has appropriate and timely information to perform well at work	= or > Commission average results in next HR survey

## ***B. Financial Management: Internal control and Risk management***

**Objective 1: Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions.**

### **Main outputs in 2017:**

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
<p>For the CAP, there is a system in place for an annual financial clearance of accounts.</p> <p>The multi-annual conformity clearance procedure allows DG AGRI to get assurance on the legality and regularity of EU expenditure. In accordance with its multiannual audit work programme, DG AGRI carries out audits to check that management and control systems in the Member States are in conformity with EU and national rules. When it finds that this is not the case, it imposes net financial corrections (recovered to the EU budget) to protect the EU's financial interests.</p>	<p>Annual financial clearance decisions.</p> <p>3-4 ad hoc conformity clearance decisions each year.</p>	<p>No target for level of financial corrections.</p> <p>The main aim of the audits is to get assurance that management and control systems function correctly and that EU funds are thus spent in conformity with EU and national rules. Only where this is not the case, net financial corrections are applied to and protect the EU financial interests.</p>
<p>The assurance model is based on audits of the management and control systems in the Member States. The latter provide data on the controls they carried out, which enables the Commission to estimate the "reported error rate". It then assesses if that error rate is reliable and, using all available information (from audit and other sources) and professional judgement, makes top-ups to the reported error rate in order to estimate an "adjusted error rate". This enables the Director General to inform whether he has reasonable assurance that the Member States' management and control systems ensure the legality and regularity of the expenditure for which he is responsible.</p>	<p>Adjusted error rate.</p> <p>2015: 2.02%</p>	<p>Adjusted error rate: no target</p>
<p>The Director General also takes account of the corrective capacity (expected future net financial corrections by the Commission and recoveries from beneficiaries by Member States to the expenditure of the reporting financial year). When</p>	<p>Corrective capacity</p> <p>2015: 1 066 million EUR = 1.87% of CAP expenditure.</p> <p>Risk remaining to the EU</p>	<p>Corrective capacity: no target</p> <p>Risk remaining to the</p>

these two elements (adjusted error rate and corrective capacity) are taken together, the Director General can give the complete picture of the estimated risk to the EU budget after all corrective action has been carried out.	budget for 2015 after all corrective action has been carried out: 0.15%	EU budget after all corrective action has been carried out: <2%
From financial year 2015, the opinion of the Certification Bodies on legality and regularity shall be received and, pending the assessment of the quality of the opinions, will be progressively integrated into the DG AGRI assurance process.	Number of CBs for which the opinion on legality and regularity can be relied upon.	Long-term target: 100%
DG AGRI is able, through its audits, to detect when the MS (and applicant Countries') management and control systems are deficient. Aside from protecting the EU budget via net financial correction, DG AGRI makes recommendation for improvement and/or, where necessary, requires MS to implement remedial action plans.	Number of remedial action plans requiring Member States/Paying Agencies to remedy shortcomings.	Actions as relevant in order to remedy deficiencies that had been detected in the Member States' management and control systems.
DG AGRI monitors the implementation of the action plans and, when found not to be sufficient, preventive actions including interruption, suspension or reduction of payments are applied.	As necessary	100%
DG AGRI regularly organises and provides financial assistance to conferences with the national management and control authorities and informs them of most common audit findings.	Number of conferences	3 paying agency conferences/year
Guidelines are drawn up and/or revised in the context of financial clearance and for the calculation of financial corrections, to assist Member States with the practical implementation of their responsibilities.	As necessary. Guidelines for annual accounts must be issued every year.	100%

**Objective 2 (mandatory): Effective and reliable internal control system in line with sound financial management.**

**Main outputs in 2017:**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
To establish, perform, monitor and report on the financing of the CAP and Rural Development.	% of budget execution (commitments) with respect to budget appropriations	99% Whereas ideally the result would be 100% of the size of the agricultural budget and taking into account that MS are responsible for paying out the largest part of the budget and the number of budget lines involved, it is realistic to foresee some under execution. However, based on previous experience and in view of procedures in place, a very high degree of execution has been obtained, so a target only allowing for 1 % deviation has been foreseen (no over execution is possible) which is sound budgetary management
	% of budget execution (payments) with respect to budget appropriations	99% Whereas ideally the result would be 100% of the size of the agricultural budget and taking into account that MS are responsible for paying out the largest part of the budget and the number of budget lines involved, it is realistic to foresee some under execution. However, based on previous experience and in view of procedures in place, a very high degree of execution has been obtained, so a target only allowing for 1 % deviation has been foreseen (no over execution is possible) which is sound budgetary management
Assistance and Central Financial Control, Executive Agencies	Respect of deadline put in the vademecum of Direct management for analysing and giving/refusing visa to incoming dossiers related to financial transactions, financial issues, public procurement and grants	Within 5 working days for financial issues (for second level ex-ante control)  Within 10 working days for public procurements and grants (for second level ex-ante control)  Target defined in conformity with the rules of the vademecum on Direct management of DG AGRI
	Respect of deadline put in the vademecum of	2 months maximum  Target fixed for the preparation of

	Direct management for the launching, coordination and adoption of financing decisions	the consolidated documents and the launching of the procedure for the adoption of the financing decisions
	Respect of deadline put in the vademecum of Direct management for the attribution of designations and sub delegations in the financial circuits	5 working days maximum Target fixed taking into account the necessary time to deal with such files
	Respect of the deadline in the preparation of the briefing(s) for the participation of DG AGRI representative in the Steering Committees (in charge of the monitoring of the activities of the Agency)	100%, the Steering Committee meetings are organised at least four times a year
	Number of trained staff on financial issues	100 Target fixed in order to decrease the risk of errors in financial files due to a lack of training
The accounts of DG AGRI, including execution during 2016 and adjustment of accounts for the closure 2016	Timely delivery of the accounts	By March 2017
	Opinion of the Court of Auditors on the quality of the accounts (Annual report, chapter 1)	Positive opinion on final accounts
Progressive adaptation of the DG's Internal Control system in line with the revised Commission internal framework	Adaptation of Internal Control System	Adaptation in accordance with the Communication to the Commission on the new Internal Control Framework

**Objective 3 (mandatory): Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and correction of fraud.**

**Main outputs in 2017:**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Development and implementation of DG AGRI's anti-fraud strategy	Revise the DG AGRI Anti-fraud Strategy and its action plan and – if a revision proves necessary - present the revised version for adoption	End of 2017
	Revise and complete the internal rules in DG AGRI on the handling of allegations of fraud, and of OLAF cases, and – if a revision proves necessary - present the revised version for adoption	End of 2017
Prevention of fraud	Deploy further training to raise fraud awareness among general staff of DG AGRI.	1 SYSLOG training by the end of 2017
	Continue deploying specific fraud detection and prevention training to operational staff of Paying Agencies in the Member States at their request	Cover 100 % of requests as appropriate.
	Disseminate OLAF reports to the relevant units inside DG AGRI and record the follow-up actions undertaken.	2017
Investigations conducted by OLAF	Timely referral of denunciations to OLAF for investigation	100%

## C. Better Regulation

The main planned outputs linked to the Better Regulation objective in the Strategic Plan are listed in Part 1 under the relevant specific objective. They are presented in the tables under the headings "All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme" and "other important items".

The main outputs which should result from the actions in 2017 are presented in the table below, accompanied by indicators and targets.

<b>Objective (mandatory): Prepare new policy initiatives and manage the EU's acquis in line with better regulation practices to ensure that EU policy objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently.</b>		
<b>Main outputs in 2017:</b>		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
COORDINATION OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE CAP - Coordination of a common monitoring and evaluation framework for the CAP 2014-2020 - Analysis of results for use in policy development (indicators, studies, evaluations)	Coordination of the internal Task Force on Monitoring and Evaluation of the CAP	Organisation of 2 meetings per year
	Organisation of the meetings of the expert group on "M&E of the CAP"	Organisation of 2 meetings per year
EVALUATIONS Assess the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of CAP (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> pillar) instruments	Establishment of the DG AGRI pluri-annual evaluation and studies plan	DG AGRI evaluation plan established/updated on time for inclusion (as annex) in the management plan of year N+1
	Evaluation reports, analytical notes and quality assessments	Ongoing
Pilot projects	Degree of implementation of EP Pilot projects and preparatory actions	Number of new pilot projects / preparatory actions launched: 4 (target for 2017).
Reviewing the potential for further simplification in the CAP in the short and long term	Number of Commission documents adopted with a view to simplify the policy	More than 5 December 2017
Contribution to the Commission Regulatory Fitness initiative (REFIT)	Timely contribution to the REFIT initiative including reaction to simplification requests under the REFIT platform.	90% replies within deadlines
Relations with EU institutions, national parliaments, other institutional stakeholders and civil society, including the	Questions/requests from other Institutions, including Parliamentary Questions, replied to	Maintain the present high rate of replies within deadline.

participation in meetings of the Council, the SCA and working parties, European Parliament, COMAGRI and other committees, as well as attendance to trilogues (accompany & follow-up on the ordinary legislative procedure).	within the deadline	
	Participation of the Commissioner and DG AGRI's officials in high level meetings with other EU institutions and advisory groups (civil dialogue groups)	The Commissioner represents the Commission in the most important meetings
Relations with the Court of Auditors	Number of overdue recommendations in RAD <sup>11</sup> addressed to AGRI as chef de file	0

With note Ares(2015)4072899 of 2/10/2015, DG AGRI laid down internal organisational aspects for the respect of Better Regulation (BR) rules, which proved to be efficient and work well. Nevertheless, with the experiences gained and due to the reorganisation of DG AGRI, the development of Decide tools and the expected update of the BR Toolbox, these internal arrangements will be reviewed in 2017.

**Specific objective: To provide sound legal services and to ensure correct application and enforcement of the CAP law.**

**Main outputs in 2017:**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
DG AGRI proposals for legal acts need to comply with EU legal framework	Proportion of positive opinions from the LS in inter-service consultations launched by DG AGRI	>90 % of consultations December 2017
Legal soundness of DG AGRI positions needs to be ensured, and this, in a timely manner	Rapidity of response on signataires submitted for paraphe on legal issues and on notes submitted asking for legal advice	>85 % dealt with within deadlines laid down in the vademecum fixing the rules for legal consultation December 2017
Examination of notified and alleged State aids in the agricultural and forestry sectors	Examination of notified State aid cases within the statutory deadlines and timely examination of all other State aid cases (NN, CP ...)	100% of cases to be handled within the statutory deadlines if any or foreseen within the best Practice Code.
Management of complaints and infringement proceedings	Appropriate administrative treatment of all new complaint cases notified	No more than 5% of non-registered files
Management of notifications made under Directive (EU) 2015/1535 on technical standards	Timeliness of treatment of all new draft technical received	100% of deadlines to be met

<sup>11</sup> RAD ("Recommendations/Actions/Discharge") is a DG BUDG database to monitor the implementation of European Court of Auditors, Council and European Parliament recommendations.



Coordination DG AGRI's replies to the European Ombudsman (EO)	Timeliness of delivery of replies to the EO	100% of SG accepted deadlines to be met
Coordination DG AGRI's replies to access to documents requests (Regulation 1049/2001)	Timeliness of delivery of replies to access for documents requests	100% of requests for documents answered within the deadlines

By checking the legal soundness of DG AGRI's proposals for legislation, guidelines and notes, unit I.1 aims at ensuring that new proposals respect the legal framework and the principles of better law-making. By providing legal advice on the implementation of CAP legislation, unit I.1 aims at ensuring that the CAP objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently. Unit I.1 also continues to follow the inter-institutional discussions on the part concerning agriculture of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union<sup>12</sup> of 14 September 2016 with a view to ensure the respect of the principles of better law-making, effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural policy and legal soundness of the legislative provisions.

As regards State aids, DG AGRI is itself chef de file (carried out by Unit I.2) whereas for other competition issues, DG COMP is chef de file as long as there are no specific antitrust derogations foreseen in the CAP legislation notably the CMO Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

By checking State aid cases that are notified by the Member States to the Commission or which Member states wish to block exempt, Unit I.2 aims at ensuring that Member State will only grant State aids in conformity with the specific rules (State aid Guidelines and Block Exemption Regulation, or directly based on Article 107(2) or (3) of the TFEU). By following up on alleged or possible non notified State aid cases, through complaints or in any other way), Unit I.2 ensures that there is no distortion, or risk of distortion, of competition threatening the functioning of the internal market.

By ensuring the enforcement of legislation in all Member States, Unit I.3 contributes effectively to the proper functioning of the internal market and to the correct implementation of the mechanisms of the CAP by the Member States, bringing legal certainty, equal treatment between beneficiaries and consequently an effective and efficient achievement of the CAP objectives. Similarly, the examination of technical rules within the framework of Directive 2015/1535/EU enables the prevention of potential obstacles to free movement of goods. Furthermore by providing proper and timely answers to the European Ombudsman in reaction to complaints alleging cases of poor or failed administration, Unit I.3 provides detailed factual and legal explanations in order to show that a matter has been handled correctly, in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures and with the view to reinforce confidence in Commission, particularly regarding the better law-making or monitoring of application of EU law by the Member States. By providing in time sound legal replies to access to documents requests, Unit I.3 ensures the effective implementation of the public's right to access to documents held by the EU institutions, provided by Regulation 1049/2001. Consequently I.3 contributes to increasing transparency and accountability to EU citizens.

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<sup>12</sup> Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, EU No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No 1307/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014,(EU) No 283/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, COM(2016) 605 final

**Specific objective:** To ensure an effective and efficient planning and programming process and to support the preparation and adoption of agricultural legislation

**Main outputs in 2017:**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Implementation of the Commission planning and programming process	Percentage of elements of the Strategic Planning and Programming (SPP) cycle delivered on time	100 %
	Delivery rate (adoption by the College): - CWP - Other Decide Planning proposals	100 %
	Number of delays in DG AGRI replies to Interservice Consultations (ISC)	Steady reduction

#### ***D. Information management aspects***

The main outputs which should result from the actions in 2017 are presented in the table below, accompanied by indicators and targets.

The Commission adopted a new corporate strategy for data, knowledge and information management in October 2016. The new strategy establishes a corporate framework while leaving room for DGs to develop and implement their own approaches tailored to their unique needs.

A new Information Management Steering Board has been created to oversee the implementation of the strategy, to ensure coherence between actions and to prioritise them. The Director General of DG AGRI has been appointed as member of the Board and DG AGRI will therefore contribute actively to the implementation of this strategy in 2017.

In particular, we will ask Units to review the visibility of their files with a view to opening read access as widely as possible and we will start promoting Commission wide access for newly created files. Furthermore, we will continue raising awareness on the need to protect sensitive information by the use of markings in order to reinforce restrictions on sensitive documents and improve security.

**Objective (mandatory): Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable**

**Main outputs in 2017:**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Document management	% of filing of documents in DG AGRI	100 % of documents ARES filed
	% of files in NOMCOM where no documents are filed within the last 12 months from the total number of active files in	0% files in NOMCOM where no documents are filed within the last 12 months

	AGRI (including subfiles) <sup>13</sup>	
	Percentage of HAN files readable/accessible by all units in the DG	75 %
	Percentage of HAN files shared with other DGs	10 %*
Personal data protection	Notification of identified personal data processings in DG AGRI	100 % of identified processings included in the register of the DPO
IT infrastructure, tools and services	Implementation of the relevant parts of the Schéma Directeur (ICT Investment Plan of DG AGRI)	95 %
	Servers' availability (averaged over one year)	≥ 99 %
	Information Systems User Satisfaction (positive assessment)	> 80 %
	Number of security breaches (new indicator)	No major security breaches

*\*In line with the principle of sharing information within the Commission, DG AGRI set a long-term target of 50% to be achieved in the coming 5 years with a view to improve transparency and avoid duplications in filing at Commission level. However, no general guidelines have been issued by SG at this stage, so DG AGRI units could share visibility at the moment of creation of their new files after the reorganisation (some detailed instructions for registration esp. of internal documents need to be drafted and distributed as well). This explains the proposed 10% for 2017 (lower compared to the strategic goal, but with the tendency to further increase in the future years and while awaiting the decision at central level).*

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<sup>13</sup> New indicator proposed further to the recommendation included in the IAC Audit report on document management.

## E. External communication activities

The main outputs which should result from the actions in 2016 are presented in the table below, accompanied by indicators and targets.

**Objective (mandatory):** Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision making and they know about their rights in the EU.

**Specific objective:** To build trust within the EU and among all citizens, farmers and non-farmers, alike. The key issues of food security, climate change and environment protection as well as the maintenance of sustainable rural areas are consistent features of the messaging and with the Commission's legal requirement to carry out information measures on the CAP.

Related to spending programme: EAGF

To communicate how the CAP contributes to the political priorities of the Juncker Commission.

For the general public, the objective is to raise awareness on the relevance of EU support to agriculture and rural development through the CAP.

For the stakeholders, the objective is to engage with stakeholders (mainly farmers and other parties in rural areas) in order to further communicate about the CAP to their constituencies and to the wider public.

**Main outputs in 2017:**

### Policy-related outputs

Description	Indicator	Target date
Main communication actions: Media and Web	6 study trips (positive evaluation feedback), Ag.press e-platform (maintain members as active users), Europa web digital transformation	2017
Conferences, fairs and events	Conference on the modernisation of the CAP and Conference "agricultural markets outlook" (satisfaction feedback from participants)	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2017 and December 2017
	Participation at Ag fairs in Berlin and Paris, EC Open Days in Brussels and several other fairs in Member States (number of visitors and degree of satisfaction with the activities proposed)	2017
	Launch of and communication on school schemes and edutainment package  Communication activities concerning the modernisation of the CAP	2017

Grants	Co-financing 15 to 20 "information measures on the CAP" following the last call for proposals	May 2017 – April 2018
Corporate communication	Campaign to be conducted by DG COMM	2017-2018

#### Annual communication spending:

Baseline (2016)	Estimated commitments (2017)
EUR 4 million	EUR 8 million: - <b>Direct actions</b> (Media and Web, Conferences, fairs and events): EUR 4.500.000 - Indirect actions (Grants): EUR 3.500.000
	Corporate communication by DG COMM: EUR 8.400.000 (co-delegated to DG COMM) from EAGF budget lines

## ***F. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities of the DG***

### **Automated centralised monitoring tool for overview of programme amendments**

Following the IAS Audit recommendations, RDIS2 offers since December 2015 a new tool for the operational monitoring of the progress of RDP amendments. The functionality is twofold i.e. it provides an overview of the ongoing amendment process, and it gives a forecast for the reception of the amendments and consequent planning. Based on amendments submitted, RDIS2 is capable of producing an estimate of the future workload/timing for the various actors involved in the amendment process which allows for better planning and subsequently a more efficient management of human resources. Instead of manual updates, the monitoring and forecast report is now generated from RDIS2 on a weekly basis and contributes to an effective planning of the workload for both desk officers and hierarchy.

### **Agriculture dashboards**

Access to accurate information, transparency and prompt publication are key elements to make informed decisions and deal better with agricultural markets' volatility. The agriculture dashboards<sup>14</sup> offer full access to all available market data through a single page. In one screenshot, the dashboards gather all the useful available data important to farmers, producers, stakeholders and interested citizens in order to make informed choices. These dashboards are made and updated on an almost daily basis by experts from DG AGRI using the latest national, European and international data. It saves interested parties time. By standardizing the output and by making updates regularly, it also saves time for experts making updates and colleagues who have the task of uploading the information.

### **Shared database of standards for good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC)**

Access to information on the implementation by MS of the GAEC standards is crucial to check compliance of national definitions with the EU framework and to assess properly the baseline on the basis of which Rural Development measures are to be set as well as the environmental ambition of MS. For these purposes, The GAEC database developed by the JRC has been amended in order to ensure that it contains the appropriate level of detail and to ease the search for information. This updated GAEC database, shared with colleagues and experts, saves them time, reduces the number of solicitations to MS and enhances the level of Information between interested parties.

### **Centralised management of meetings**

In the framework of the reorganisation of DG AGRI Unit I.4 will become from 1/1/2017 the central administrative manager of all comitology, expert group and Civil Dialogue Group meetings, including the management of related registers. The unit will assist the policy units in the organisation of meetings (planning, document handling, reimbursements, relation with delegates etc.) By pooling staff and expertise previously dispersed in several policy units, efficiency gains are expected, with decrease of staff number.

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<sup>14</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/dashboards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/dashboards/index_en.htm)

## **Information system for communication between the Member States and the Commission about applications to register geographical indications**

E-Ambrosia is an information system used by the Member States and the Commission services to communicate about the applications to register a geographical indication or to amend a product specification. Initially developed for wines, it has been successfully extended in the last three years to agricultural products and foodstuffs, and to spirit drinks. It aims at submitting the application to the Commission, its examination and communication of comments by the Commission services, and re-submission of a revised version of the application. The main benefits are: reduction of the time dedicated to the management and the processing of the files, better monitoring of examination tasks, reliable archiving system (compliant to e-Domec). Moreover, it allows for monitoring of the state of play of the applications. Development of E-Ambrosia continues with the development of the public interface which will allow for an improved dissemination of information to better inform the citizens and make the EU quality policy more visible.

## **Framework contracts for evaluating the CAP performance**

During 2016, DG AGRI launched calls for tenders for three (single) framework contracts for evaluation of the CAP against the common objectives of viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action and balanced territorial growth. A fourth covering synthesis and cross-cutting issues will be awarded in 2017.

These framework contracts follow the establishment of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in Art. 110 of R. 1306/2013, which included the objectives for the CAP, an indicator framework, and clear milestones in terms of reporting obligations to Council and Parliament. The use of the framework contracts reduces the administrative resources needed, while ensuring methodologies allowing for comparability across evaluations. They also allow for a better financial management, since the price of each individual evaluation can be known ex-ante, depending on the number and type of evaluation questions envisaged.

## **Mechanisms to improve coherence across FTA negotiations**

2016 saw the finalisation of a guidebook for the management of negotiations on Geographical Indications in FTAs, and the creation of an FTA Steering Group to exchange ideas and propose solutions to recurrent issues in negotiations.

Directorate A also organised an intensive series of training sessions on different topics relevant for trade negotiations, and participated in the study looking at the cumulative impact of tariff concessions in recent and forthcoming FTAs – again two exercises in maximising coherence.