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Management Plan 2018

**Directorate-General
Agriculture and Rural Development**



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INTRODUCTION

The DG AGRI 2018 Management Plan defines the actions and outputs planned for 2018 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 balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation (Juncker priority 6)¹.

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 Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, Art. 110(2)², 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 Pillars 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.

¹ This priority has been extended to include other trade agreements that contribute to EU economic interests.

² 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 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.

The following table gives an overview of the four Commission general objectives selected for DG AGRI³, 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
1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment	CAP CO 1: viable food production CAP CO 2: sustainable management of natural resources and climate action CAP CO 3: balanced territorial development	Corporate Percentage of EU GDP invested in R&D (combined public and private investment) Employment rate population aged 20-64 CAP-specific Agricultural factor income Total factor productivity in agriculture EU commodity prices compared to world prices Rural employment rate
2. A Connected Digital Single Market	CAP CO 3: balanced territorial development	Corporate Aggregate score in Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) EU-28 CAP-specific Percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved ICT services/infrastructures
3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy	CAP CO 2: sustainable management of natural resources and climate action	Corporate Greenhouse gas emissions CAP-specific Net greenhouse gas emission from agriculture Nitrate levels in freshwater (water quality) Minimum share of agricultural land with specific environmental practices/commitment

³ 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.

Commission General Objectives	Related common CAP objectives (CO)	Impact Indicators
6. A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation	CAP CO 1: viable food production	<p>Corporate</p> Percentage of EU trade in goods and services as well as investment covered by applied EU preferential trade and investment agreements
		<p>CAP-specific</p> Total EU agri-food trade value

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, though in some cases presenting new export opportunities.

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).

Initiatives specifically mentioned in the Commission Work Programme

The moment has come to move forward. Discussions on the post-2020 CAP both in Council and the European Parliament are well under way. The Commission has carried out a large consultation which forms the basis for the Communication "The Future of Food and Farming" published on 29 November 2017⁴.

DG AGRI will continue the work 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. Moreover, as part of the preparation of the next programming period, and in line with the Commission Work Programme 2018, DG AGRI will contribute to the design of the Multiannual Financial Framework beyond 2020 and work on the preparation of the ensuing proposals for the next generation of programmes. These proposals will be relevant for all CAP common objectives.

As concerns the position of farmers in the food supply chain, Annex I of the Commission Work Programme for 2018 makes reference to an impact assessment and legislative proposal to improve the EU food supply chain on the basis of Articles 42 and 43 TFEU for 2018 as a 'new initiative' under the heading 'A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base'. The initiative follows up on the resolution of the European Parliament of June 2016 and the Council's unanimous conclusions of 12 December 2016 which had invited the European Commission to inter alia carry out an impact assessment

⁴ COM(2017)713 final

with a view to proposing an EU legislative framework or other, non-legislative measures to address unfair trading practices. It further is backed by the November 2016 report of the Agricultural Markets Task Force.

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 1st 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 1st pillar market measures provide a safety net in cases of market and price crises. The 2nd 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

Initiative to improve the food supply chain

DG AGRI currently carries out an impact assessment under the European Commission's initiative to improve the food supply chain with a view to the possibility of governance measures at the EU level to be proposed in the first half of 2018. The aim of such measures would be to strengthen the farmers' position in the food supply chain.

Simplification

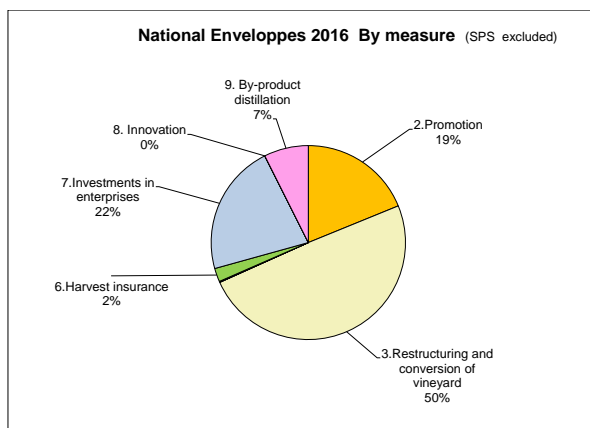
DG AGRI has established a structured approach to review the more than 200 Commission implementing regulations with a legal basis in the CMO Regulation. The approach focusses on simplification and reduction of administrative burden, as well as alignment with the Lisbon Treaty and involves working closely 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 was completed in the course of 2017. However, consolidation of marketing standards was put on hold by DG AGRI and revision of trade mechanisms (DA/IA on tariff rate quotas) will be finalized in 2018.

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 2017 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 10 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 applies as of 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.

A decision with the financial allocation per participating Member State in the 2018/2019 school year is envisaged to be adopted in March 2018.

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.

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, 2018 will be challenging from an animal health point of view. Compensation measures are in the making with regard to avian flu in France, and possibly other Member States, as well as to African Swine Fever in Poland and other possibly affected MS

From a pure market balance point of view, measures will be taken in 2018 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 as well as a more rational operation of buying-in.

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.

Olive oil and table olives

The harmonisation of international standards for olive oil is a key factor to ensure a level playing field in international trade in olive oil. After the entry into force in 2017 of the new International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015, efforts will concentrate on driving the IOC towards policy priorities and on conducting the review process of the CODEX olive oil standard launched in 2017 and to be run during the whole 2018. EU marketing standards in this sector are largely defined in line with the International Olive Council (IOC) and are also necessary for the smooth functioning of the EU common market. 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. These current national programmes come to an end and new programmes have to be notified by the three Member States by April 2018.

Cereals and Oilseeds

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. The Crops Market Observatory will support the Commission's market monitoring activities throughout 2018.

For protein crops, the Commission is committed to adopt a report on how EU plant protein production is supported in the EU and which measures would further enhance sustainable and local sourcing of plant protein in the EU.

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 until very recently, 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). Italy is expected to file a new request for a "safeguard clause" against EBA rice imports.

Sugar

The management of the sugar market in 2017/18 will face additional challenges due to the fact that this is the first year post quota. 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 and make full use of the newly created Sugar Market Observatory.

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

CAP common objective: Viable food production

Specific objective: To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and enhance its value share in the food chain Related to spending programme: EAGF

Main outputs in 2018:

All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Food chain legislation on basis of CAP competence and depending on the outcomes of an impact assessment currently carried out (PLAN/2017/764; cf Annex 1 of Commission Work Programme 2018) ⁵	Legal rules concerning the governance of the food supply chain so as to improve the position of farmers – follow-up to Agricultural Markets Task Force's November 2016 report	First half of 2018

Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Delegated and Implementing Acts for market measures	Adoption	2018

Other important outputs

<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	2018
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 2018 to 31 July 2019	Adoption	Planned 1 st quarter 2018
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	By mid-2018
2017/AGRI/045-046 Delegated and Implementing regulation as regards the scheme of authorisations for wine	Adoption	Planned 1 st quarter 2018

⁵ This output also contributes to the priority "A deeper and fairer internal market" (Commission General Objective 4)

plantings, vineyard register, accompanying documents, inward and outward register and compulsory declarations.		
Commission Report on the support of plant protein production in the European Union: cooperation with ENV (environmental impact), GROW (bio economy and jobs in rural areas, SANTE (plant protection, health), TRADE (international trade agreements).	Adoption	Planned 4th quarter 2018
2015/AGRI/098 Proposal of Council Decisions on the conclusion and on the EU implementing procedures of the International Olive Agreement 2015 (cooperation with EEAS and DEVCO, ENV, GROW as DGs also being in charge for International Commodity Bodies)	Adoption by Council and EP consent.	Planned 2 nd quarter 2018
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) (PLAN/2017/1352)	Report on the application of the competition rules in the agricultural sector	1 st quarter 2018
Evaluation of the impact of CAP measures towards the general objective "viable food production"	Finalisation of staff working document	2018
Evaluation of the impact on the internal market of certain state aid measures in the agriculture and forestry sectors	Finalisation of staff working document	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, 2018 will be challenging from an animal health point of view. Compensation measures are in the making with regard to avian influenza in France, Hungary and Poland and might become necessary in relation to African Swine Fever.

From a pure market balance point of view, measures will be taken in 2018 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.

Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment		
CAP common objective: Viable food production		
Specific objective: To maintain market stability		Related to spending programme: EAGF
Main outputs in 2018:		
Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Proposal of Council Regulation fixing production levies for sugar for the marketing years 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 following the ruling of court case C-585/15	Council Adoption	1st quarter 2018
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 as regards the quantitative limitation for buying-in skimmed milk powder (PLAN/2017/1917)	Adoption	Enter into force before 1 March 2018
Implementing Regulation on exceptional market support measures for the poultry meat sector in France, and possibly other MS, following avian influenza outbreaks	Adoption	2018
Implementing Regulation on exceptional market support measures for the pig meat sector following African Swine Fever outbreaks	Adoption, if necessary and upon MS request.	2018
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
Other important outputs		
<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 2018

Exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables	Share of volume withdrawn in support of market (0.91%)	Maintain market stability
Smooth functioning of the sugar market in the first post quota year through intensive monitoring, among others supported by the newly created Sugar Market Observatory	Relatively stable prices	A price ranging above 400 euro/tonne
Temporary exceptional measures for livestock farmers	Adoption if necessary to maintain market stability	Depend on market developments
To ensure sound and efficient financial management of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	Correct and timely monthly payments (12 payments + 1 complementary)	3rd working day of every month
	Public Storage expenditure management (12 monthly declarations + 1 annual declaration from Member states holding stocks)	Declarations received by the 12th each month. Continuous follow up required
Evaluation of the impact of CAP measures towards the general objective "viable food production"	Finalisation of staff working document	2018

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.

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 2018:		
Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Preparation of legal acts (adaptations of delegated and implementing acts following the adoption of the Omnibus regulation; approval decisions for possible reviewed Voluntary Coupled support for BE, FI, PT)	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 (new decisions following Omnibus regulation; update of notifications; regular exchanges with MS, including by the organisation of workshops on policy issues; legal interpretations and guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of Expert groups and Committees - Replies to letters to MS - Bilateral meetings with MS - Assessment of notifications 	All along the year
Reporting and communication activities, as regards the different schemes and their implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalisation and dissemination of monitoring reports for 2016 - Preparation of the monitoring reports for 2017 	Early 2018 for 2016 reports Second semester for 2017 reports
Contribution to policy analysis / provision of an expertise on Direct Payments in various exercises in particular upstream of the preparation of new legislative proposals for the CAP post-2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal analytical notes - Participation in working groups and various meetings 	All along the year

Adoption/publication of a legal act facilitating the introduction of New Technologies in IACS and the possibility of monitoring (amending the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014)	- Adoption/publication	2nd quarter 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of legal acts and guidelines to review, amend and simplify the IACS legislative framework • Providing interpretation to Member States with regard to the implementation of direct payments, in particular from an IACS perspective • Follow-up and support of the implementation of Direct Payments in particular as regards IACS, including the dissemination of good practices, exchange of experience and development with support of JRC and GROW. • Monitoring the implementation of direct payments and ensuring that action is taken when implementation is lacking/failing. • Initiation and follow up as appropriate of Member State Action Plans according to Art 41.2 of Reg 1306/2013. • Analysing and reporting in cooperation with JRC on MS Quality Assessment of their LPIS (LPIS). 	Delegated/Implementing acts for IACS and guidelines to be amended (2015/AGRI/090, 2016/AGRI/036)	All along the year
	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 15.04.2018 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 2018 for QA reports and scoreboards.

Other important outputs

Evaluation of the impact of CAP measures towards the general objective "viable food production"	Finalisation of staff working document	2018
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1.1.4 Specific objective: To promote a more market oriented agriculture by ensuring a significant level of decoupled income support

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

CAP common objective: Viable food production

Specific objective: To promote a more market oriented agriculture by ensuring a significant level of decoupled income support⁶

Related to spending programme: EAGF

Main outputs in 2018:

Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes

Description	Indicator	Target date
Decoupled support ⁷	% of total direct payments which is decoupled	Calendar year 2016/budget year 2017: 88.9% ⁸ Calendar year 2017/budget year 2018: 88.6% ⁹

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 2016 and 88.6% for the calendar year 2017 is a significant level of decoupling.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Execution of the Budget 2017 provisional figures.

⁹ Based on the Budget 2018 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 (including, among others, managing authorities, paying agencies, EU-wide organisations, LAGs, evaluators, etc.) 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 spending programme: EAFRD to

Main outputs in 2018:

Other important outputs

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Events of the European Network for Rural Development (Number of events)	Number of events	1 EU rural networks' Assembly meeting 2 EU rural networks' Steering Group meetings 2 Thematic work themes completed 10 Workshops 2 Seminars
Publications and communication of the European Network for Rural Development (Number), in cooperation with other relevant DGs	Number	2 EU Rural Reviews 2 Rural Connections magazines 2 Project Brochures 12 ENRD newsletters ENRD website (page views per month) 120 000 Social media presence: • Twitter followers: 3300 • Facebook page likes: 5500 LinkedIn Group members: 750
Timely assessment of Annual Implementation Reports in close cooperation with ESIF and other relevant DGs	Number of reports assessed	118
Timely assessment, in cooperation with other relevant DGs, of proposals for	Number of programme amendments assessed (estimate)	206 (estimate)

programmes amendments		
Meetings with Member States (Monitoring Committees, Annual Review Meetings, etc.)	Number of meetings (estimate)	297
To ensure sound and efficient financial management of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) ¹⁰	Correct and timely quarterly payments	40 days after the reception of the declaration of expenditure

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 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

¹⁰ This output is applicable to all DG AGRI objectives related to the EAFRD spending programme.

protected through these agreements is a necessary counterpart and thus contributes to their successful conclusion.

Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment		
CAP common objective: Viable food production		
Specific objective: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture (Priority 3)		Related spending programme: EAFRD to
Main outputs in 2018:		
Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
2016/AGRI/001 and 2016/AGRI/002 Delegated and implementing acts for wine labelling and presentation, traditional terms and geographical indications	Adoption	By mid-2018
Delegated and implementing acts for a new spirit drinks Regulation	Discussions in the committee and the expert group	Second half of 2018
Other important outputs		
<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 from third countries.	Number of applications examined (dependent on submissions made to the Commission)	Within 6 months for agricultural products and foodstuffs; within 12 months for wine, spirit drinks, aromatised wine
Management of the Community registers and lists of PDO/PGI/TSG/GI.	Registers kept updated	On-going
2011/AGRI/039 Alignment proposal for spirit drinks	Political agreement	By mid-2018
In co-operation notably with SANTE, monitor supervision of the control systems put in place by the Member States for registered PDO/PGI/TSG/GI and	Participation in Commission audits performed by SANTE Completion of seminars in co-operation with EUIPO Contribution to trainings in the framework of BTSF (lead service	On-going By end 2018 On-going

exchange best practice	SANTE)	
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	On-going

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.

Regarding organics, a highly coordinated level of control and timely notification of irregularities from Member States and Third Countries will be promoted considering their crucial character for the correct implementation of the Regulation in force which will contribute to increasing the consumer's expectation on organic 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 2018:		
Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 29/2012 improving some aspects of labelling rules for olive oil to increase the information offered to consumer.	Adoption by COM after scrutiny	1 st quarter 2018
Other important outputs		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Management of running promotion programmes	Number of running, partially running or accepted programmes	Running or partially running: 266 (estimate - 154 under the old scheme, 112 for the new scheme)
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 31/01/2018. ±15 National Info Days in 2018 ±10 specific Info Days for civil society (on request) in March-April 2018
Call for proposals	Publication of 2 annual calls for	January 2018

	proposals (1 for Simple + 1 for Multi promotion programmes)	
Annual Work Programme for 2019	Adoption of an implementing decision	4 th quarter 2018
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	3 meetings tbc
	Commission Adoption of simple programmes	November 2018
Organisation of high level promotional events in third countries in 2018. Logistics organised by CHAFEA; political coordination by B1.	High level missions with business delegation.	2 high level missions: - May 2018: China - 2 nd country TBC
	Number of participating stakeholders	- Up to 70 participants
Statistics	Development of a Common tool to be able to follow simple/multi programmes managed under the promotion regime	Operational by the end of 2018
	Delivery of statistics	On request
Coordination with Agency	Preparation and decisions of the CHAFEA Steering Committee	Continuous task over the course of 2018
Effective supervision of MS handling of irregularities and fraud allegations related to EU organic production	Timely notification of irregularities	Continuous
	Timely reply to notified irregularities	Continuous
	Timely transmission of information on circulation of alleged fraudulent products and on remedial action	Continuous
	Development of the electronic documentary evidence	Ongoing

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
Main outputs in 2018:		
Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Commission Delegated Regulation amending 639/2014 on rules for direct payments to farmers including	Adoption	2nd quarter 2018

greening (follow-up to the Omnibus Regulation)		
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
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	Beginning 2018
Evaluation of the impact of the CAP on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions	Finalisation of staff working document	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.

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.

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.

Review of the EU Forest Strategy

In 2018 the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the review of the EU Forest Strategy (COM(2013)659). The review should provide an assessment of the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy adopted in 2013, covering the eight priority areas identified in the Strategy and the associated strategic orientations. To this end, the assessment will consider the Multi-annual implementation Plan (SWD(2015)164) and the actions listed therein addressing the strategic orientations identified for each priority area in the EU Forest Strategy.

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: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (Priority 4) Related to spending programme: EAFRD

Main outputs in 2018:

Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes

<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	Basic act to be adopted by first quarter 2018
	Production of secondary legislation (around 60 acts)	2018 onwards to be completed by 2020

Other important outputs

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Implementation of Action Plan for the future of Organic Production in the European Union	Number of completed actions	100% finalised by the end of 2020 (currently 60% of the actions completed or ongoing)
Effective supervision of the set up and functioning of the control system for organic production in Member States	Contribution to FVO audits in Member States	Continuous 3 per year
	Assessment of MS annual reports	Continuous
	Follow-up to irregularities	Continuous
Evaluation of the forestry measures under the rural development policy	Finalisation of the staff working document	2018

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 Brussels-based "Support Facility for Broadband Competence Offices (BCO)" will be fully operational in 2018. 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 continue to identify together 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 2018.

Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment		
Commission General Objective 2. A Connected Digital Single Market		
CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development		
Specific objective: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas (Priority 6)	Related to spending programme: EAFRD	
Main outputs in 2018:		
Other important outputs		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Broadband Competence Office (BCO)	Brussels-based Broadband Competence Offices support facility is fully operational	2018
Annual Work Programme (AWP) of the Support Facility for BCOs	Implementation of activities included in the AWP 2018 with the contributions of DGs CNECT, REGIO and COMP	2018
Legislative proposal on the European Solidarity Corps as member of the working group led by EAC and including in particular SG and DGs AGRI, EMPL, REGIO, ENV, DEVCO, SANTE	Adoption of the regulation	Second quarter 2018
Synthesis of the RD ex-post evaluations 2007-2013	Finalisation of the Staff Working Document	2018

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.

Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment		
CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development		
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	Related to spending programme: EAGF	
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)		
Main outputs in 2018:		
All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme		
-		
Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
2016/AGRI/007 Modification of Commission Implementing	Adoption by the College and published in EUOJ	1st semester 2018

Regulation (EU) No 180/2014.		
2016/AGRI/008 Modification of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 181/2014.	Adoption by the College and published in EUOJ	1st semester 2018
Other important outputs		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Commission decisions and DG letters for amendments approvals (according to kind of modifications)	Date of notification to the MS	2018

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)

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		
CAP common objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action		
CAP common objective: Balanced territorial development		
Specific objective: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas (RD Priority 1)		Related to spending programme: EAFRD
Main outputs in 2018:		
Other important outputs		
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	2018
EIP-AGRI publications	1 magazine (Agrinnovation) 10 factsheets 4 brochures 12 newsletters 24 press articles	2018

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.

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.

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 2018:		
Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Grants	Budget allocated to grants	EUR 250 million
Other important outputs		
Description	Indicator	Target date
Proposal submission for 2018 calls	Proposals submitted (first deadline)	February 2018
Selection of proposals for funding from 2018 calls – implementation by the executive agency REA	Proposals selected for funding	December 2018
Publication of 2019 calls	Topics published	July 2018

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

This objective has been achieved. Sapard programmes have been closed. Financial closure of Sapard for Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia is to be completed early 2018, upon recoveries of debtors' ledgers 2010-2016 being executed.

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 have ceased in 2017, and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the end of 2017.

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: 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	Related to spending programme: IPARD I

and local rural development strategies, 3. development of the rural economy¹¹.

Main outputs in 2018:

Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes		
<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 4818 in TR
Improving market efficiency and implementation of Union standards (AXIS 1)	Number of applications approved	514 in HR 2330 in fYRoM 3084 in TR
Preparatory actions for the implementation of the agri-environmental measures and local rural development strategies (AXIS 2)	Local rural development strategies A) Number of applications received B) Number of applications approved C) Number of recognised LAGs D) Total population of LAGs	In HR A) 40 B) 25 C) 25 D) 1.055.000
Development of the rural economy (AXIS 3)	Diversification of rural economy A) Number of applications received B) Number of applications approved	A) 585 in HR 229 in fYRoM 5697 in TR B) 524 in HR 95 in fYRoM 5127 in TR

* By the end of the programmes, contracting for Croatia and Turkey ended in 2016, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 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

This objective has been achieved . Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Montenegro have received entrustment for budget implementation tasks for few measures during 2017; Albania and Serbia are expected to receive it in early 2018. We

¹¹ 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).

hope that after the initial entrustment of budget implementation tasks for the few main measures focusing on investments in farms and food processing, all countries will start preparing for the entrustment for additional measures. However, this may fall under the overall objective of implementation of IPARD 2014-2020.

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.

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. Implementation of IPARD II commenced in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey in 2017 and by early 2018 should have also started in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia. We hope that after the initial entrustment of budget implementation tasks, all countries will start preparing for the entrustment for new measures.

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: 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 II

Main outputs in 2018:

Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes

<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target*</i>
Management and control systems implementing IPARD	Entrustment of budget implementation tasks granted on a number of measures under individual country	Entrustment at least for some measures under all five programmes,

programmes; the framework for the systems has been developed in close cooperation with DGs NEAR, BUDG and LS, based on provisions of the Financial Regulation and Framework Agreement. Each entrustment decision, which is granted per measure is communicated to DG NEAR and is aligned to their overall assessments of the "horizontal bodies" of the management and control systems for IPA.	IPARD programmes by concluding Financing Agreements.	continuous entrustments for the new measures. Expected total by 2020 – 32 entrustments.
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		
Output	Indicator	Target
Start of implementation of IPARD II programmes; the programmes had been adopted in consultation with DGs NEAR, ENV,	First calls for applications carried out under all five programmes	2018

Regio, EMPL, Sante, Clima, Mare, BUDG, SG, LS. Implementation is closely coordinated with DG NEAR and EEAS, mainly through EU Delegations.		
Progress in implementation of five IPARD II programmes	Percentage of the relevant IPARD II allocation paid**	AL: 13% fYRoM: 32% ME: 22% RS: 17% TR: 27%

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

**Considering all outstanding budgetary commitments.

Commission General Objective 6: A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation

The agri-food sector plays a central role for a balanced and progressive trade policy. The EU is both the world's largest exporter and importer of agricultural products.

EU exports are in strong demand thanks in part to past CAP reforms that increased the market-orientation and competitiveness of EU producers. The freedom to respond to consumer tastes – within a legal framework that guarantees key standards - has helped make sustainably produced, safe, high-quality and innovative food the EU's calling card on international agri-food markets. This has brought benefits to the sector and there is huge potential to continue to do so. EU trade policy can help EU farmers and food producers to make full use of these opportunities.

At the same time, it cannot be ignored that for certain specific agricultural sectors trade liberalisation and unfettered competition with imports is more challenging. We therefore will continue to recognise and reflect the sensitivity of the products in question in trade negotiations, making sure that sufficient safeguards for these more sensitive sectors are provided. The right balance will have to be maintained for agriculture within trade agreements and also across all agreements, finding an equilibrium between offensive and defensive interests, which includes Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues and the protection of geographical indications.

In order to ensure that all opportunities from trade agreements can be fully used by producers and exporters in the EU, DG AGRI also accompanies and monitors the correct implementation of existing agreements and works on resolving trade irritants that provide obstacles to real market access.

The market-orientation of the agri-food sector also allows the EU to retain its leading role in international bodies such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), working towards a further levelling of trading conditions, for example in the area of trade distorting domestic support, which would lead to an improved situation for EU agri-food exporters.

As the world's biggest *importer* of agricultural products the EU imports more from the least developed countries than the "big 5" importers (US, Canada, Japan, China and Russia) combined. This is a key feature of the EU's balanced and progressive trade policy. This, along with a CAP that is now fully in line with development objectives, better equips the EU to influence global agriculture policy and take a leading role in global initiatives - for example in the context of the UN, the G20 and the G7 – as well as to foster relationships with developing countries that assist them in advancing their agriculture and rural potential.

DG AGRI thus directly contributes to the Commission general objective 6 "A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation" via the common CAP objective 1: To promote a viable food production.

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 help advance the multilateral trade agenda reflecting the EU's key role at the WTO. This should lead to a further levelling of trading conditions, notably in the area of trade distorting domestic support, leading to an improved situation for EU agri-food exporters. EU accession to the WIPO 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 of April 2016 adopted a new programme of work to be carried out in 2017-18 with the aim of achieving "a productive, sustainable and resilient global food system". DG AGRI, being chef de file for agricultural matters in OECD, is now following up this work. DG AGRI is also preparing input on agriculture to other multilateral fora, such as FAO, G7 and G20.

Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment		
Commission General Objective 6: A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation		
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 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).		Related to spending programme: N/A
Main outputs in 2018:		
Other important outputs		
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
WTO Agricultural negotiations	Contributions to the negotiations on the post-Buenos Aires agenda	Throughout 2018, notably for each Special Session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture Participation in the Special Sessions. Positions co-ordinated in constant and extremely close co-ordination with DG TRADE and EU Geneva delegation.
Finalisation and implementation of negotiations under GATT Article XXIV.6 on compensatory adjustments and GATT Article XXVIII negotiations to modify the EU Schedule	Contributions made to negotiations, and their conclusion and implementation	Article XXIV.6 negotiations: conclusion and implementation in 2018 Article XXVIII: ongoing throughout 2018 Negotiations carried out in close co-operation with DG TRADE; implementation with SJ

		and DG TAXUD.
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 2018, notably each session of the OECD Committee for Agriculture and its working parties
Influence of agriculture policy in UN (notably FAO), GFFA, G20 (agriculture) and G7 (agriculture) in close cooperation with DEVCO and other relevant services.	Contributions made to key committee meetings of FAO and IFAD bodies Contributions made to work on SDG implementation and indicators for Agenda 2030 affecting agriculture policy Provide comments to papers and attend all relevant meetings of GFFA, G7 and G20.	AGRI staff participation in all relevant FAO and IFAD meetings Participation in all interservice meetings and contribution to all relevant Commission documents on SDGs Organise High Level event at GFFA Agricultural Ministerial (January 2018) and attend all G7 and G20 agricultural meetings in 2018
Proposal to the Council on EU accession to the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin (2016/AGRI/076)	Adoption of proposal; EU accession.	EU accession during 2018. Ongoing, in close co-ordination with SJ, SG and DG GROW.

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. 2018 should see the conclusion and process for the signature of some important agreements (such as Japan, China (GIs), Norway, and possibly Mexico and Mercosur), the continuation of others (Chile, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia), focus on implementation of concluded agreements with Canada and South Korea and the finalisation of the process for the signature, conclusion and entry into force of agreements with Singapore and Vietnam. Negotiations with Australia and New Zealand will also be launched. 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; in particular those related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary barriers. 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 and the African Union, 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 and measures to encourage investment in African agribusiness. 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.

Concerning the trade of organic products, the imports of organic product from third countries is increasing every year to supply the raising demand of such products. During 2018 it will be ensured that an effective supervision of the set up and functioning of the control system for organic production in recognised third countries and recognised control bodies for import of organic products will be duly carried out under current rules. On the other hand, 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.

As from 2014 Council negotiation directive require that any equivalence recognition of Third Countries for the organic sector should be in the form of a fully-fledged trade agreement. Renewed Council negotiation directives (early 2018), will authorise the continuation of the negotiation with third countries in organics.

Commission General Objective 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment
Commission General Objective 6: A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation

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 2018:

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
Provide analysis on agri-food products to support bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations	Timely provision of analytical notes and data	Meet all deadlines agreed with negotiation units
Implementation of full EPAs in: East African Community; SADC-EPA Group; West Africa; CARIFORUM	Finalisation of CARIFORUM GI protection (2016/AGRI/032).	Adoption in 2018
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	Participate in all relevant meetings; provide examples for agri-food sector
Contribute to the implementation of EPAs (TRADE)	Contribution to work coordinated by TRADE and DEVCO	Participation in all coordination meetings;
Address root causes of irregular migration by promoting investment in agri-business in Africa	Follow-up to the African Union-EU Agriculture Ministers Conference and the EU-Africa Summit	during the year 2018
Building partnerships with International Organisations, AUC, ACP and selected countries	Number of agriculture policy (incl. GI) initiatives & events	Organise the follow-up to the African Union – EU Agricultural Ministerial Conference in cooperation with

		DEVCO, TRADE etc.
Tunisia: contribution to DCFTA, in close cooperation with DG TRADE	Resumption and continuation of bilateral negotiations	Planned 2019
Morocco: conclusion of a GI agreement	Adoption by Council and Parliament and implementation of the Agreement	2018-2019
Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine: Association Agreement including DCFTA, in close cooperation with EEAs and DG TRADE	Implementation, approximation monitoring (including update of GIs lists for the three countries). Possible start of discussions on review clause with Moldova.	2017-2018
Armenia: negotiation of the bilateral Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (including GIs), in close cooperation with DG TRADE	Negotiations started in 2016 Adoption expected to be finalized before the end of 2017. Monitoring of implementation as from 2018.	2018.
Azerbaijan: negotiation of a new Agreement including GIs, in close cooperation with DG TRADE	Negotiations started in 2017.	2018
Russia, Turkey: resolving trade irritants, in close cooperation with DG TRADE and DG SANTE	Contribute to the resolution of ongoing trade bans and/or safeguard measures	2018
Kyrgyzstan: negotiation of a new Agreement including IPR/GIs section, in close cooperation with DG TRADE	Launching negotiations	2018
Turkey	Prepare possible start to negotiations on agricultural concessions and modernisation of the customs union	2018
Belarus: dialogue, in close cooperation with EEAS and DG TRADE	Participate in discussions of the Trade dialogue led by DG TRADE	2018
Iran: dialogue in close cooperation with EEAS, DG TRADE and DG SANTE	Establishment of agriculture cooperation + follow-up to visit of High Level business mission by Commissioner Hogan in November 2017.	2017-2018
Lebanon: dialogue in close cooperation with EEAS and DG TRADE	Participate in discussions of the Trade and Investment working group lead by DG TRADE	2018

Saudi Arabia: promoting agro-food trade	Follow-up of High-Level business mission led by Commissioner Hogan in 2017	2018
Israel, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan: dialogue, in close cooperation with EEAS and DG TRADE	Dialogue on agriculture and cooperation (including on GI's, organic farming, etc.) via ENPARD and TAIEX Dealing with trade irritants	2018
Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the western Balkans (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo)	Monitoring of the agreements and participation to annual agricultural dialogues. Contributions to trade dialogues and other events pursuant to agreements, as necessary.	2018
Switzerland: reclassification of seasoned meat	Find a solution to the trade irritant of reclassification of seasoned meat from Chapter 16 to Chapter 02, to be implemented by Switzerland	2018
2015/AGRI/037 and 2015/AGRI/038 Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion and the signature of an EU- Norway Article 19 agreement on further trade liberalisation	Commission adoption October 2017 Council adoption with EP consent	Planned 2018
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 Chile on trade in organic products	Implementation. In coordination with EU Delegation in Chile.	2018
Canada: CETA	Monitoring of the implementation. In coordination with DG TRADE and the EU Delegation in Canada.	2018
US: TTIP	Stand ready to continue negotiations <i>Pour mémoire.</i> No development expected	2018
Mexico: modernisation of existing agreement; Mercosur	Continuation/finalization of negotiations. In coordination with DG TRADE, DG GROW and DG SANTE.	2018
Mercosur: negotiations for an association agreement.	Continuation/finalization of the negotiations. In coordination with DG TRADE, DG GROW and DG SANTE.	2018

Central America: Free Trade Agreement implementation	Continuation of monitoring of implementation. In coordination with EU Delegations and DG TRADE.	2018
Peru-Colombia-Ecuador: Free Trade Agreement implementation	Continuation of monitoring of implementation. In coordination with EU Delegations and DG TRADE.	2018
Chile: modernisation of existing association agreement	Continuation of negotiations. In coordination with DG TRADE, DG GROW and DG SANTE.	2018
China: agreement on protection of geographical indications (2011/AGRI/008 and 2025/AGRI/058) Monitoring of and addressing trade barriers, in close cooperation with DG TRADE and SANTE	Conclusion of negotiations and launch process for signature.	Early 2018 ?
China: cooperation activities in the field of agriculture and rural development	Continuation of cooperation resulting in avoidance of new trade barriers.	2018
Japan: Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations under DG TRADE's coordination	Contribution to draft Council decisions for signature and conclusion	2018
Philippines and Indonesia: Free Trade Agreement negotiations under DG TRADE's coordination	Continuation of negotiations	2018
Australia/New Zealand: Free Trade Agreement negotiations under DG TRADE's coordination	Launch of negotiations	2018
India, Thailand, Malaysia: Free Trade Agreements under DG TRADE's coordination	Talks towards possible resumption of negotiations with India and Thailand Relaunch of negotiations with Malaysia	2018
Korea: Free Trade Agreement implementation, with the support of the EU Delegation to Korea	Monitoring of proper implementation in particular on GIs	2018
Fostering organics by promoting equivalence with third countries.	Renewal of the Council negotiating directive Number of negotiation on mutual recognition under bilateral trade	First half of 2018 2 in 2018

	<p>agreement in organics.</p> <p>Follow-up of equivalence arrangements with recognised third countries carried out, in particular USA, Canada and Switzerland</p> <p>Progress in negotiations for an equivalence agreement with Colombia, Ecuador and possibly Mexico</p> <p>Progress in the development of a plurilateral arrangement</p> <p>Enhancement of relations with accreditation bodies</p>	<p>Ongoing (annual video conference with US and Canada) bilateral meeting with CH.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Fostering organics by enhancing the supervision of the activities of control bodies for imported products from non-equivalent third countries.</p>	<p>Contribution to the DG Sante audit in recognised third countries and recognised control bodies for import of organic products</p> <p>Control bodies annual report analysed</p> <p>Supervising the correct implementation of the electronic certification of imported organic products from third countries</p>	<p>6 audit per year in CB and equivalent third countries. Ongoing</p> <p>100% analysed by the end of 2018</p> <p>2018</p>

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 with Montenegro and Serbia (opened with Montenegro in December 2016), in the agriculture and rural development chapter of the acquis, are well focused and structured. This will give the EU the opportunity to guide and influence the key decisions on policy and implementation towards a well-functioning common agricultural policy. This is done via the negotiations themselves but also 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. This objective is complemented also by DG AGRI's implementation of the rural development programmes as part of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) (see specific objectives 1.4.4 and 1.4.5).

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 sent to the country, covering all chapters of the acquis, including agriculture. It is expected that Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit before the end of the year the country's reply to this questionnaire.

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 2018:		
Other important outputs		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
All enlargement countries	Alignment to the Common Agricultural Policy	Accession date (unknown)
Turkey: revision of Customs Union agricultural aspects	Adoption of negotiation directives by Council, follow-up	2018
Montenegro: negotiations on agriculture chapter in accession negotiations	Progress in negotiations on the chapter agriculture - fulfilment of closing benchmarks.	not pre-defined in view of unknown accession date
Serbia: 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	2018
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Analysis of application	Review of reply to questionnaire sent by the Commission to the BiH authorities in preparation of the opinion of the country's membership application. Opinion 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 medium- 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-term 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.

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 6: A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation

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 2018:

Other important outputs

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
AGRICULTURAL POLICY ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the definition of the long-term strategy for the CAP Follow-up of the implementation of the CAP 2014-2020; 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; 	Notes and documents on the CAP post-2020 Support to other policy initiatives (Commission priorities, sustainable development goals etc.)	On request On time contributions to other policy initiatives
COUNTRY INTELLIGENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of agricultural policy developments in Member States and policy positions in the field of agriculture; Analysis of documents on the evolution of agriculture and rural areas from Member States Other data collection and analysis 	Monitoring of policy development in MS Data, analysis, fact sheets and briefings on MS	Ongoing Ongoing
OUTLOOK To provide short- and medium-term outlook for EU agricultural markets and income, to assess	Report on medium-term prospects for agricultural commodity markets published paper/electronic versions	Publish new Report before end of the year 2018

<p>the likely developments in the current policy framework and under alternative scenarios. This activity is carried out in cooperation with DG JRC. Outlook validated also through workshop with external experts and other DGs (ECFIN, TRADE, ENVI, CLIMA, JRC, etc.)</p>	<p>Organisation of the EU agricultural outlook conference</p>	<p>First week of December</p>
	<p>Timely publication of 3 reports on short-term outlook for agricultural commodity markets</p>	<p>Reports to be published in March, July, October 2018</p>
<p>MODELLING AND ANALYSIS 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.</p>	<p>Operational platform of economic and biophysical models and related databases (in collaboration with JRC). Main use: trade, environment, biofuels, climate and CAP reform analysis.</p>	<p>Operational tools for timely results Analyses on request.</p>
<p>DATA INTEGRATION 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. Analysis of trade statistics</p>	<p>Development, up-dating and maintenance of CMEF indicators and preparation CMEF report to Council and Parliament</p>	<p>End 2018</p>
	<p>Monthly dashboard of EU and world commodity prices, including along the food supply chain</p>	<p>Monthly updates.</p>
	<p>Regular updates, ad-hoc requests and annual trade statistics report</p>	<p>on demand Publication of trade statistics report in the summer.</p>
<p>MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF FADN LEGISLATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation of systems and reporting tools following implementation of the new Farm Return (Regulations 1217/2009, 1198/2014 and 2015/220) Amendment of Delegated Regulation EC 1217/2009 following Germany's request to amend FADN divisions by merging Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg Amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2020 changing the number of Farm Returns for some Member States and introducing additional financial incentives for early sending and correcting data. 	<p>Maintenance and support of the RICA Information Systems</p>	<p>100 % availability of the system to users (outside maintenance periods)</p>
	<p>Enhancement of RICA2 functionality. Amended Delegated and Implementing Regulations.</p>	<p>All business requirements implemented as scheduled</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further monitoring and development of FADN IT systems. Starting introduction of a new analytical/visualisation tool. • Adaptation of the FADN data to the CAP evolution and requirements/demands for the analyses • Improve the efficiency and the performance of the FADN reporting 		
<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>	Delivery of relevant and high quality data for specific analyses supporting policy development of CAP after 2020	Ongoing
	Delivery of relevant ad-hoc analysis and special FADN reports	Ongoing
	Finalisation of FADN annual reports	Before the end 2018
<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>	Contribute to the development of Eurostat's framework regulations on integrated farm surveys and statistics on agricultural inputs and outputs	Ongoing
	Contribution to the development and implementation of Eurostat's work programme in agricultural statistics, in line with DG AGRI's data needs	Ongoing
	2018 update of statistical country factsheets	March 2018
	2018 update of CAP context indicators	December 2018
	2018 update of farm income developments	December 2018
GIS support to statistics and economic/policy analysis	<p>Number of DG AGRI units using the service.</p> <p>Number of maps and data analyses produced.</p>	<p>Increase</p> <p>Maintain or increase</p>

PART 2. MAIN ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

A. Human resource management

The HR Modernisation project as laid down in the Communication on Synergies and Efficiencies continues to be rolled out in the Commission. The model foresees that HR services for DGs are now delivered by the Account Management Centres (AMCs). Within each DG, the HR Business Correspondent is supposed to coordinate strategic HR matters and prepare the related decisions of the DG's management.

DG AGRI is taking part in the pilot phase of the HR Modernisation project. It was initially planned until end of 2017 but it has been extended until June 2018. Currently, the roles of the actors deviate from what is foreseen in the model. DG AGRI will continue contributing to the refinement of the model and ensuring that HR services provided to DG AGRI staff and management are of the highest quality standards.

In terms of workforce planning, organisational structure and staff allocation, 2018 will be the second year with the revised structure resulting from the January 2017 reorganisation. The more far-reaching changes, targeting the rationalisation of certain administrative support activities – notably in the areas of direct financial management and meeting organisation – should be fully implemented and start delivering the expected efficiency gains. The HR BC will closely monitor the staffing of the corresponding services and their contribution to the staff reduction objectives set upon DG AGRI.

The specific staff reduction agreement between DG AGRI and central services will be completed in 2018. A final instalment of up to 17 FTE is due in 2018. The HR BC will therefore continue to oversee all staff allocation decisions, including the follow up of temporary allocations, to ensure the respect of DG AGRI's staff reduction schedule. Furthermore, in order to better fulfil its advisory role for future resource allocation decisions, the HR BC will launch in 2018 a 3rd "task mapping" exercise.

Particular attention will be devoted during 2018 to the achievement of DG AGRI's target for first female appointments to middle management positions. The College Decision of July 2017¹² stipulates that by 1st November 2019 4 out of 7 vacancies at middle management level (57%) should be filled with newly appointed female middle managers. Decisive progress in reaching this target should be made in 2018 as DG AGRI will again be able to appoint new heads of unit after a two-year period with no middle management selection procedures. The large, high quality pool of colleagues in pre-management positions in DG AGRI is a good basis for making progress in this area. In addition, the third edition of DG AGRI's middle management training programme will continue to nurture the pool of talented future managers. The programme will run as of 2018 and target high potential female and male administrators interested in taking up management responsibilities.

Staff engagement and well-being will be a key priority for the HR BC in 2018. The results of the 2016 staff survey placed DG AGRI's staff engagement index slightly above the Commission average but decreased compared to past years (65.5% in 2016 versus 64% in 2014). Staff well-being figures were low (32%) and below the Commission average (36%). A Staff engagement plan was therefore adopted in 2017. The Plan builds on actions started in 2016 and includes additional initiatives targeting those areas where results were poorer: workload and staff allocation, career and professional development, senior managers' two-way communication, working conditions and well-being. It is an ambitious action plan with activities planned until mid-2018. Hopefully the next staff

¹² SEC(2017)359

survey foreseen for 2018 will show the positive impact of these initiatives on DG AGRI's staff engagement results.

Local internal communication actions planned for 2018 partially overlap with the activities foreseen under the Staff engagement plan. One of the key actions will be the development of a management pledge. Sharing of knowledge and information is core business and will be achieved mainly through My AGRInet. Further streamlining content and reinforcing the collaborative aspect will be key areas of work in 2018. At the same time a more general and in-depth reflection will take place on how to better match internal communication actions with the needs and wishes of colleagues in the DG.

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

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.		
Main outputs in 2018:		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Efficient and effective staff allocation	Vacancy rate	= or < Commission average
Strategic, forward planning HR management	Posts returned to DG HR (i.e. staff reduction and staff redeployment)	Within deadlines
Women in management positions in close cooperation with DG HR	First female appointments at middle management level	= or > 50% of overall target until 1.11.2019
Staff allocation according to interest and competences	Overall job satisfaction	= or > Commission average results in next staff survey
Staff health	Sick leave rate	= or < Commission average for the same period
Staff well-being in cooperation with DG HR/Medical Service and DG MARE	Well-being indicator in Commission staff survey	= or > Commission average results in next staff 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 staff survey

B. Financial Management: Internal control and Risk management

Objective 1 (mandatory): Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions.¹³

Main outputs in 2018:

<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 cases where deficiencies have been identified in the management and control systems of the Member States. 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 ad hoc conformity clearance decisions each year.</p>	<p>No target for level of financial corrections. 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 protect the EU financial interests.</p>
<p>The assurance model follows a pyramid of controls based on the accreditation of the Paying Agencies (PA) and their controls prior to payments to beneficiaries. The PAs provide data on the controls they carried out, which enables the Commission to estimate the "reported error rate". DG AGRI auditors then assesses if that error rate is reliable and where necessary, using all available information (from the Certification Bodies work on legality and regularity, DG AGRI own audits 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</p>	<p>Adjusted error rate.</p> <p>2016: 2.47%</p>	<p>Adjusted error rate: no target</p>

¹³ Under shared management, Commission audit services and audit bodies in the Member States give assurance on the EU expenditure.

<p>control systems ensure the legality and regularity of the expenditure for which he is responsible, and where it is not the case, to accompany his declaration of assurance with specific reservations.</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 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.</p>	<p>Corrective capacity 2016: 1 173 million EUR = 2.04% of CAP expenditure.</p> <p>Risk remaining to the EU budget for 2016 after all corrective action has been carried out: 0.43%</p>	<p>Corrective capacity: no target</p> <p>Risk remaining to the EU budget after all corrective action has been carried out: <2%</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Number of CBs for which the opinion on legality and regularity can be relied upon.</p>	<p>Long-term target: 100%</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Number of remedial action plans requiring Member States/Paying Agencies to remedy shortcomings.</p>	<p>Actions as relevant in order to remedy deficiencies that had been detected in the Member States' management and control systems.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>As necessary</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>The Suspension Board advises the DG on interruption, suspension or reduction of payments– in case DG AGRI considers that the implementation of the action plans is not sufficient or if there are doubts about the eligibility of the expenditures declared. Some of these actions are implemented in coordination with other DGs also managing ESI Funds and DG BUDG.</p>	<p>As necessary</p>	<p>100%</p>

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 to assist Member States with the practical implementation of their responsibilities.	As necessary. Guidelines for annual accounts must be issued every year in due time.	100%
To ensure liaison between DG AGRI and DG BUDG in the framework of the discharge procedure, with a view to obtaining the annual discharge under the best possible conditions	Well-functioning process for discharge and relevant hearings in the EP	As many times as necessary during the year
Cooperation activities in the field of audit with the other shared management DGs (DG REGIO, DG MARE, DG EMPL, DG HOME)	Regular contact, including in the form of AuditNet meetings	Minimum three Auditnet meetings per year

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

Main outputs in 2018:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Proposal for the Draft Budget and Amending Letter, 3 <i>revisions conjoncturelles</i> of the Budget, various budgetary transfer proposal and decisions, Annual Financial Reports for the EAGF and EAFRD, in close cooperation with DG BUDG	% 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
Direct Financial Management	Respect of deadline for analysing and giving / refusing visa to incoming dossiers related to financial issues, public procurement and grants	Within 10 working days for public procurements and grants (ex-ante control)
	Contribute to the respect of regulatory payment deadlines set by the Commission (30/60/90 calendar days)	At least 98% Whereas ideally the result would be 100%, it is possible that the others financial actors in the validation chain take more time before validating the payment in ABAC
	Respect of deadline for the launching, coordination and adoption of financing decisions	2 months maximum Target fixed for the preparation of the consolidated documents and the launching of the procedure for the adoption of the financing decisions
	Respect of deadline 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
	Preparation (REA) or contribution (CHAFEA) 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% of the briefings are delivered on time to the DG AGRI representative (the Steering Committee meetings are organised at least four times a year)
	Number of trainings provided to the Operational Initiators	2 trainings a year
The accounts of DG AGRI, including execution during 2017 and adjustment of	Timely delivery of the accounts	By March 2018
	Opinion of the Court of	Positive opinion on final accounts

accounts for the closure 2017	Auditors on the quality of the accounts (Annual report, chapter 1)	
Implementation of the revised Commission Internal Control Framework	Adaptation of Internal Control System	Adaptation in accordance with the Communication to the Commission on the revised Internal Control Framework and DG BUDG/SG instructions following the Communication.
Preparation of action plans for IAS audit recommendations and their follow up	Timely transmission of action plans and update of ICM and IAS application TeamMate	100%
Follow-up to ECA recommendations in cooperation with DG BUDG and operational units	Timely update of RAD (including coordination with other DGs in case of multi-DG audit)	100 %
To ensure sound and efficient financial management of the two CAP funds, the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in accordance with high standards for financial management and ensuring value for money and transparency. In the case of EAFRD the tasks are carried out in strong cooperation with other DGs also managing ESI Funds, in particular regarding management and development of IT applications. During the execution of the payment and the registration in the central accounting systems, for both funds the unit has regular contacts with DG BUDG on the level of treasury management, bank account management,	Correct and timely EAGF monthly payments and EAFRD quarterly payments	100%
	Support, verification and recovery of the annual and conformity clearance of account decisions related to EAFRD & EAGF	2 annual and 5 conformity (instalments and deferrals)
	EAGF payments correct and timely regularisation in ABAC (accounting)	2 months after the monthly declaration of expenditure (Article 171(1) of the Financial Regulation)
	EAGF payments control of clear-cut eligibility criteria, ceilings and deadlines.	Monthly and bi-annual (deadlines) controls respectively
	Number of EAFRD 2007-2013 closure files finished	100% of dossiers closed by audit units

communication on IT related issues and validation of local systems, reporting from the central data warehouse, workflow of the transactions, etc.		
Ensure adequate coverage of expenditure and cost effectiveness of control of AGRI's activities in line with AGRI Strategic Plan	Costs of controls over the value of the related funds managed (%)	Stabilise costs

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 reparation of fraud.

Main outputs in 2018:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Update of DG AGRI's anti-fraud strategy	Revise DG AGRI Anti-fraud Strategy, action plan and the internal rules in DG AGRI on the handling of allegations of fraud, and of OLAF cases; if a revision proves necessary, present the revised version for adoption	End of 2018
Implementation of action points planned for 2018 in DG AGRI's anti-fraud strategy	Implemented action points planned for 2018	100% until end of 2018
Prevention of fraud	Deploy further training to raise fraud awareness among general staff of DG AGRI.	1 SYSLOG training by the end of 2018
	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.
Investigations conducted by OLAF	Timely referral of denunciations to OLAF for investigation Cooperation with OLAF in establishing financial recommendations and their follow-up.	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.

Other outputs which are linked specifically to the Better Regulation procedural cycle and which should result from the actions in 2018 are presented in the table below, accompanied by indicators and targets.

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.		
Main outputs in 2018:		
<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 st and 2 nd pillar) instruments in collaboration with the inter service steering group	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 inter-institutional database
	Degree of implementation of the DG AGRI studies and evaluation plan	100 %
Manage the EP Pilot projects foreseen in the evaluation plan	Degree of implementation of EP Pilot projects and preparatory actions	100 %
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	Ongoing
Contribution to the Commission Regulatory Fitness initiative (REFIT)	Timely contribution to the REFIT initiative including reaction to simplification requests under the REFIT platform.	100% replies within deadlines

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 recent update of the BR Toolbox, these internal arrangements will be reviewed in 2018.

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

Main outputs in 2018:

<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 2018
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 2018
Examination of notified and alleged State aids in the agricultural and forestry sectors in cooperation with various other Commission Services, notably the SG, the Legal Service and DG COMP	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 in cooperation with the SG	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 rules in cooperation with DG GROW	Timeliness of treatment of all new draft technical received	100% of deadlines to be met
Coordination DG AGRI's replies to the European Ombudsman (EO) in cooperation with the SG	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) in cooperation with the SG	Timeliness of delivery of replies to access for documents requests	90% of requests for documents answered within the deadlines
Relations with EU institutions, national parliaments, other institutional stakeholders and civil society, including the participation in	Questions/requests from other Institutions, including Parliamentary Questions, Petitions, Opinions from National Parliaments and letters from MEPs to the Commissioner replied to	100%

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

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. 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.

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 that are compatible with the internal market, in conformity with the conditions laid down in State aid Guidelines and Block Exemption Regulations, 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.

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 2018:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Implementation of the Commission planning and programming process (in close cooperation with SG and DG BUDG)	Percentage of elements of the Strategic Planning and Programming (SPP) cycle delivered on time (SP, MP, AAR, AMPR)	100 %
	Delivery rate (adoption by the College): - CWP - Other Decide Planning proposals	100 %

D. Information management aspects

The main outputs which should result from the actions in 2018 are presented in the table below, accompanied by indicators and targets.

DG AGRI actively participates to the 'Data, Information and Knowledge Management Steering Board' (IMSB) - chaired by the SG - and is involved in the design of the future IMSB work programme.

As part of its IT Master Plan, DG AGRI particularly focus on the dissemination of agricultural data to the general public via the new Agri-Food Data Portal¹⁴, the collaboration with the Open Data Portal initiative¹⁵ and the consolidation of the collaborative workspace for the Rural Development.

In the document management domain, we will continue encouraging Units to review the visibility of their files with a view to opening read access as widely as possible and we will promote 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.

¹⁴ See <http://agridata.ec.europa.eu>

¹⁵ See <http://data.europa.eu>

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 2018:

<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 AGRI (including subfiles)	0% files in NOMCOM where no documents are filed within the last 12 months
	Percentage of HAN files readable/accessible by all units in the DG	>75 %
	Percentage of HAN files shared with other DGs	5 %*
Personal data protection, cooperation in with SG/DPO	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 IT Master Plan, in co-operation with DG DIGIT and the other DGs where relevant (Common building blocks, support to ESIF policy, ...)	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 period 2016-2020 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 and progress is rather slow. This explains the proposed 5% for 2018 (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).*

E. External communication activities

DG AGRI's external communication activities are based on Articles 6 and 45 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, which requires the Commission to carry out information measures on the Common Agricultural Policy ('CAP').

The "External communication strategy for the CAP" covers the period 2016 - 2020. This strategy will also contribute to the corporate communication of the Union's political priorities in so far as those priorities are related to the general objectives of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.

The communication strategy is implemented through annual action plans, setting out the communication activities to be developed during each year.

The 2018 action plan builds on the guiding principles of the 2016 - 2020 external communication strategy on the CAP, the activities developed and lessons learned in 2017, the Commission's corporate communication priorities, the priority themes and actions for 2018 as indicated by the Cabinet and the needs of DG AGRI services in terms of external communication.

Two basic elements frame the context in which communication activities around the CAP will operate in 2018:

- the **corporate approach** in the Commission's overall communication strategy, translating political priorities into sustained communication. This will require that DG AGRI contribute in the "EU empowers" and "EU protects" corporate campaigns illustrating how the CAP delivers in the political priorities of the European Commission and showing what Europe does for Europeans.
- the follow-up of the **Commission Communication on The future of Food and Farming** adopted on 29 November 2017, in relation with the Commission proposal on MFF and the legislative proposals to follow which deserve to be accompanied by robust communication activities.

The main outputs which should result from the actions in 2018 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.

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.

Related to spending programme: EAGF

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 2018:

Policy-related outputs

<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target date</i>
Main communication actions: Media and Web	7 study trips (positive evaluation feedback), AG-press e-platform (maintain members as active users) Europa web digital transformation Social media and web based campaigns	2018
Conferences, fairs and events	Conferences on Milk Package, Plant Protein and Agricultural outlook Satisfaction feedback from participants	1st semester 2018 and December 2018
	Participation at Agricultural fairs in Berlin, Paris, Lithuania, Italy, Austria and in EU Open Days in Brussels (number of visitors and degree of satisfaction with the activities proposed)	2018
Communication campaign to raise awareness on the relevance of the CAP Communication campaign to raise awareness on EU GIs	(check level of awareness in the next EB survey in 2019)	2019
	(check level of awareness/recognition in the next EB survey in 2019)	2019
Grants	Co-financing 15 to 20 "information measures on the CAP" following the last call for proposals	May 2018 – April 2019
Corporate communication	Campaigns to be conducted by DG COMM	2018-2019

Annual communication spending:

Baseline (2017)	Estimated commitments (2018)
EUR 8 million	EUR 8 million: - Direct actions (Media and Web, Conferences, fairs and events): EUR 4.000.000 - Indirect actions (Grants): EUR 4.000.000
	Corporate communication by DG COMM: EUR 8.700.000 (co-delegated to DG COMM) of which EUR 6.500.000 from EAGF budget line 05086000/Marchés and EUR 2.140.000 from EAFRD

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

Automated centralised monitoring and forecasting tool for overview of programme amendments

Following the IAS Audit recommendations, RDIS2 offers since December 2015 a new tool for the operational forecasting and 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 data entries, 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. The monitoring and forecast report is generated from RDIS2 on a weekly basis and contributes to an effective planning of the workload for all actors involved.

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 dashboards¹⁶ 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 and migration to the AGM tool

In the framework of the reorganisation of DG AGRI Unit I.4 became on 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 assists 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, and by migrating in 2018 to a new tool (Advanced Gateway to EU Meetings, AGM) for organising these meetings, efficiency gains are expected. Savings in terms of FTEs could be used to reallocate some staff members to the team in charge of adoption procedures or, alternatively, to take on the logistics of other types of meetings.

¹⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/dashboards/index_en.htm

AGRI sharepoint tool ICM for follow-up of Internal Control and IAS audits

The AGRI workspace 'ICM' (Internal Control Monitoring) is a tool for the follow-up of internal control principles as well as of IAS audit recommendations and constitutes an important instrument to improve resource efficiency. It saves time for all units responsible for different parts of internal control actions and indicators. Furthermore, it facilitates the follow-up of IAS recommendations and gives visibility to recommendations due. It also provides proof that the audited units take responsibility of their recommendations.

The ICM workspace is considered a best practice by DG BUDG. AGRI has presented the system to other DG's interested and is ready to distribute a copy¹⁷ for those who wish to use it.

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

The FTA Steering Group to exchange ideas and propose solutions to recurrent issues in negotiations, often also with participation of other DGs such as DG TRADE and TF50, met regularly throughout 2017 and will continue to do so in 2018.

¹⁷ ICM architecture does not fit for a 'corporate' instrument to be used in a multi-DG environment.

2017 also saw the completion of an ex-post study on the impact on agri-food trade of the agreements concluded by the EU with three countries: Mexico, South Korea and Switzerland. The study, together with the cumulative study on tariff concessions in recent and forthcoming FTAs that was finalized in late 2016, will continue to inform the further analysis and assessment of impacts of agricultural trade.