



Forestry Measures in the new RDPs

From “Proposals for improving Forestry Measures in the new RDPs - inputs to COM (2011) 627/3 2011/0282(COD)” - USSE/ARCMED - 12 march 2012

PROPOSALS

Art 8 Thematic Sub-programmes

Member States may include within their RDP thematic sub-programmes, contributing to the Union priorities for rural Development.

Art 15 Knowledge transfer and information actions (Article 15)

Vocational training and skills acquisition actions, demonstration activities, information and exchange (farms visit) actions. The training or other knowledge transfer action provider shall be the beneficiary of the support. The Commission shall adopt specific conditions for those actors.

Art 16 Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

Helps farmers and forest holders, SMEs on the improvement of their economic and environmental performance. The beneficiary must be the provider of advice or training. They must fulfil some conditions and be chosen through calls for proposals, and the selection procedure must be objective and open to public and private bodies. Trainings to forest holders shall cover as minimum the relevant obligations under the Birds and Habitat Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive.

Art 17 Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

It lays down annual incentive payments to the farmers involved in quality schemes, and complying with certain criteria (public acknowledgement, transparency...).

Art 18 Investments in physical assets

It includes the investments for the production of agricultural products (Annex 1); but also the investments in the infrastructure, such as the access to agricultural and forest lands; and the non productive investments linked to environmental objectives, to biodiversity, to habitats, to the recreational value of Natura 2000 or high value areas. The beneficiaries are the farm holders with size restrictions.

Art 20 Farm and business development

This measure covers start-up aid, and guarantee the payment of CAP support till 2020 to farmers who commit to permanently transfer their entire holding and the corresponding payments entitlements to another farmer.

Art 21 Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

This measure grants municipal development plans and their public services, Natura 2000 management plans and high value areas.





It covers investments in small-scale infrastructures, including investments in renewable energy. In this case, support is also provided to big-scale infrastructures.

Art 22 Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

This measure replaces a large number of previous measures. Member States shall determine a certain size above which it will be mandatory to the beneficiary to provide a sustainable forest management plan (in accordance with the definition of FOREST EUROPE). The Commission will determine conditions for establishing the occurrence of a natural disaster or of pest and diseases outbreaks.

a) Art 23 Afforestation and creation of woodland

It grants support to the first afforestation on agricultural or non agricultural soil, put in place and maintained for 10 years. No support shall be granted for energy production (short rotation coppice). The support may be provided for planting shrubs or bushes suitable to the local conditions.

The beneficiaries are the private landowners, tenants, municipalities and their associations.

b) Art 24 Establishment of agro-forestry systems

Support granted to the establishment (up till 80%) and annual premium per hectare to cover the costs of maintenance for a maximum period of three years. The beneficiaries are the private landowners, tenants, municipalities and their associations.

c) Art 25 Prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

Support shall be granted to private, semi public and public forest owners, municipalities, state forests and their associations. It shall cover:

- The establishment of protective infrastructures and maintenance costs of firebreaks,
- Local, small scale prevention activities against fire,
- Establishing and improving forest fire, pest and diseases monitoring facilities and communication equipments,
- Restoring forest potential damaged from fires and other natural disasters including pests, diseases as well as catastrophic events climate change related events.

The risk of a relevant disaster occurrence must be supported by scientific evidence and acknowledged by scientific public organizations.

The disaster, or measures adopted to eradicate or contain it, has caused the destruction of at least 30% of the relevant forest potential.

Forest areas classified as medium to high forest fire risk according to the forest protection plan established by the Member States shall be eligible for support relating to forest fire prevention.

Art 26 Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

Support granted to investments aiming at the achievement of commitments undertaken for environmental aims or providing ecosystems services and/or which enhance the public amenity value of forest and wooded land or improve the climate change mitigation potential of ecosystems, without excluding economic benefits in the long term.

Natural persons, private forest owners, private law and semi-public bodies, municipalities and their associations shall be granted by this support. State forests, independent from the state budget, may also be granted when managing such forests.

Art 27 Investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products

Support under this article shall be granted to private forest owners, municipalities and their associations and to SMEs for investments enhancing forestry potential or relating to processing and marketing adding value to forest products.





Investments related to the improvement of the economic value of forests shall be at level of the forest holding and may include investments for soil and resource friendly harvesting and machinery practices.

Investments related to the use of wood as a raw material or energy source shall be limited to all working operations prior to industrial processing.

Support shall be limited to the maximum rates of 40% and 50% in areas facing natural or specific constraints (65% in smaller Aegean islands and 75% in outermost regions).

Art 28 Setting up of producer groups

Those groups must be set up for the purpose of:

- Adapting the production and output to market requirements,
- Jointly placing goods on the market,
- Establishing common rules on production information
- Other activities such as development of business, marketing skills, innovation...

Producer groups must come under the definition of SMEs, on the basis of a business plan.

The support shall be paid as a flat rate for the first five years, calculated on the group's annual marketed production.

If the marketed production is below 1M€, payments will reach 10%, 10%, 8%, 6%, 4% of the marketed production on the five years (5%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% for marketed production above 1M€, with a maximum of 100.000 €/year).

Art 29 Agri-environment - climate

This measure is now compulsory. It's only open to farmers, farmers groups or other land managers. But where duly justified to achieve environmental objectives, agri-environment-climate payments may be granted to other land-managers or groups of other land-managers.

Commitments under this measure shall be undertaken for a period of five to seven years, only for those commitments going beyond the relevant mandatory standards established by law (cross-compliance), and shall compensate beneficiaries for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone resulting from the commitments made.

Support shall be limited to 200 to 900€/year, according to the culture.

Art 31 Natura 2000 and Water framework directive payments

Support under this measure shall be granted per hectare to compensate beneficiaries for costs incurred and income foregone resulting from disadvantages in the areas concerned, related to the implementation of Birds, Habitats and EU Water Framework Directives. Payments can reach the amount of 500€/ha/year during the first five years and 200€/ha/year the following years. The beneficiaries can be farmers, forest owners and their associations. Other land-managers can be eligible in justified cases.

Natura 2000 areas and forest areas designated pursuant are already eligible, not exceeding 5% of the Natura 2000 areas covered by its territorial scope. Agricultural areas included in river basin management plans according to Water Framework Directive are also eligible for payments.

Art 32 et 33 Payments and designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints

Only agricultural lands in mountain areas or affected by specific constraints are targeted by this measure. The designation of mountain areas is under reform.

Art 35 Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation

Support under this measures shall be granted per hectare of forest where are carried out, on voluntary basis, operations going beyond the relevant mandatory requirements. Payments shall compensate beneficiaries for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone (up till 20% of transaction costs).





The beneficiaries are forest holders, municipalities and their association, for a period of between five and seven year's commitments.

Support is provided to private entities, municipalities and their associations for the conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources for some operations.

Art 36 Co-operation

The support to new and technological products is maintained, and it's now allowed to individual actors to be beneficiaries of the support, under the condition of disseminating the project and operation results.

The measure is expanded to activities such as sharing facilities, joint work processes, horizontal and vertical co-operation in the supply chain to promote short supply chains and local markets or the sustainable production of biomass for all purposes.

"Joint environmental projects" will be supported, as well as the creation of clusters, pilot projects, networks, and operational groups of the EIP (European Innovation Partnerships) and public-private partnerships.

Projects can come from only one sector, on the contrary of the Local Action Groups (LEADER).

The measure shall finance business plans, forest management plans, and local development strategy; training and recruitment of members; management plan, promotion plan and running costs.

Support may be combined with projects supported by Union funds other than the EAFDR and can cover cross-border regions.

Art 37, 38, 39, 40. Risk management

A set of tools for the agricultural risk management is provided under those articles. There is a support for **insurance contracts** (Art. 38), for **mutual funds** to compensate income drops in case of disease and environmental incidents (Art. 39).

Besides, the creation of mutual funds for **income stabilisation** is one of the measures planned in order to help farmers in case of drop of income exceeding 30% (Art. 40).

Art 42-45 LEADER

The Axis LEADER is a little bit modified. It's compulsory in all the RDPs with a minimum allocation of 5%.

It provides actions such as the "LEADER start-up kit" for groups who did not implement LEADER in the 2007-2013 programming period.

Art 55 National Rural Network

Each member States shall establish a national rural network, which groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development. The networking shall aim to increase the development of stakeholders in the implementation of rural development, improve the quality of rural development programmes, inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on RDP, foster innovation in agriculture.

