10 YEARS OF CAP SIMPLIFICATION
FOR A BETTER FUTURE

After ten years of efforts, the European Commission and the member states are still trying to find ways to make the complex framework of the European Common Agricultural Policy simple and effective.

Moving unnecessary barriers from agriculture might sound a simple process. But considering farmers’ multidimensional role, this is not an easy task.

WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY DONE: TIMELINE

2007
- Creation of a single Common Market Organisation for all agricultural products
- Simplification and administrative burden reductions estimated at 39% for Direct Payments and 46% for import and export licences

2008
- Health check
- The Commission simplifies Cross Compliance (environmental, animal welfare and food quality standards) by withdrawing standards that are not relevant or linked to farmer responsibility

2015
- Commission introduces 4 waves of simplification
  - March 2015 first wave: deadline for submitting aid applications for direct payments was extended, to give farmers more time to understand the new requirements
  - May 2015 second wave: Changes of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) & Ecological Focus Area (EFA) layers, On-the-spot check (OTSC), Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS)
  - Beginning of 2016 / third wave: The Commission amends the rules for IACS / Simplification measures on voluntary coupled scheme and the young farmer scheme
  - Changes were made to implementing rules on rural development to simplify the publicity requirements for smaller beneficiaries and the programming rules for financial instruments by lowering the publicity obligations in certain cases
  - Fourth wave: Simplification measures on direct payments

2016
- Fourth wave: Simplification measures on direct payments

OCTOBER 2017
- Omnibus regulation

WHAT DOES SIMPLIFICATION MEAN FOR FARMERS?

More free time
More competitive farming sector
Makes rural areas more attractive
Offers certainty to farmers who want to invest in the sector
Improve their environment performance

“Excessive complexity and bureaucracy under the CAP is detrimental to farmers. That is why the policy must be simplified so that farmers can focus on what they do best — to produce food.”

Secretary-General of Copa-Cogeca Pekka Pesonen.

WHAT SIMPLIFICATION MEASURES EU FARMERS HOPE FOR POST-2020?

1. Realistic
2. Applicable
3. Simple to use