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Gainers and losers of the implementation of the new Common Agricultural Policy in Wallonia

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Abstract

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) defined in 2013 is implemented since 2015. It offers several options to the Member States/Regions. This paper describes the choices which have been made in Wallonia and their consequences on direct payments. It appears that 42% of the farmers will lose between 2014 and 2019, while 44% will gain and a quasi-status quo is observed for the remaining 14%. Finally, the new situation is politically acceptable and gives more support to small farms, young farmers and cattle breeders, though the global envelope for direct payments will decline in Wallonia.

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1. Introduction

In 2013, a new Common Agricultural Policy was defined after several years of negotiations between the EU Commission, the Member States, the EU Parliament and the Council of Ministers. The EU Regulation No. 1307/2013 deals with the structure of the direct payments, giving the Member States and their regions several choices according to their own priorities. The Walloon Region (Belgium) finally defined its own policy which is described below. This policy is supposed to have as less and as slow consequences as possible. However, it will have impacts on the value of direct payments and on farmers' income. These impacts were calculated based on the available data before making the final choice of the new rules to be implemented in the Walloon Region, and are

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presented below.

2. New structure of the direct payments in the Walloon Region

The new structure of direct payments in Wallonia is presented in Figure 1.

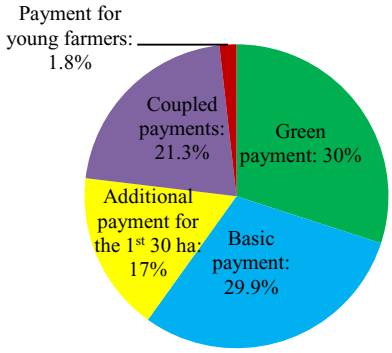

Fig. 1. New architecture of direct payments in Wallonia (%) (2015-2020).

As it is compulsory for each Member State/Region, the "green payment" represents 30% of the total envelope for direct payments. The specific payment for young farmers has been decided to reach 1.8% of the total amount of direct payments, according to the expected number of young settlers.

A characteristic of the Walloon Region is its high level of payments which are still coupled: 21.3% of direct payments, including 18.8% for suckling cows, 1.2% for dairy cows, 1.1% for double-end cows and 0.2% for ewes.

The Walloon Region also decided to devote 17% of the available amount for direct payments to grant an additional payment for the first 30 ha of each farm. So doing the remaining share of the so- called "basic payment" reaches only 29.9%.

3. Evolution of the total envelope for direct payments

As Belgium in one of the Member States where the payment per hectare was among the highest, it has to contribute to the principle of the convergence among the EU Member States. So, the total amount for direct payments will decline for Belgium and for its regions between 2013 and 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1. Budget of the 1st pillar of the CAP for Belgium and Wallonia from 2013 to 2020.

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	Budget (000 €)	568,980	544,047	536,076	528,124	520,170	512,718	505,266	505,266
	Annual variation (%)	-	-4.4 %	-1.5 %	-1.5 %	-1.5 %	-1.4 %	-1.5 %	-
Wallonia	Budget (000 €)	306,680	291,990	287,712	283,444	279,175	275,176	271,176	271,176
	Annual variation (%)	-	-4.8 %	-1.5 %	-1.5 %	-1.5 %	-1.4 %	-1.5 %	-

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