

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1360/2005 of 18 August 2005 amending Regulation (EC) No 817/2004 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1360/2005

of 18 August 2005

amending Regulation (EC) No 817/2004 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and amending and repealing certain Regulations<sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 34 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 provides that the Community may fund farmers who enter into agri-environmental commitments, but that these are to involve more than the application of usual good farming practice. Some of the agri-environmental commitments, given for a five-year period, expire before 31 December 2006. With the introduction of the principle of cross-compliance provided for in Chapter 1 of Title II of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003, establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy<sup>(2)</sup>, the obligations which apply to farmers in the absence of agri-environmental commitments are different. New rules will apply to the agri-environmental measure for the next rural development programming period 2007 to 2013.
- (2) Instead of signing new five-year-contracts under rules applicable to the current programming period, Member States may wish to extend agri-environment contracts with farmers currently in force so that the last year of the commitment does not start later than 31 December 2006.
- (3) Greater flexibility should be provided in the framework of Commission Regulation (EC) No 817/2004<sup>(3)</sup> in cases where farmers have transferred significant parts of the area for which the initial agri-environment commitment was given, while ensuring that the environmental benefits of the commitment are continued.
- (4) Regulation (EC) No 817/2004 should therefore be amended accordingly. The amendments should apply as from 1 January 2005, when some of the initial contracts might have expired.

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1360/2005, Introductory Text. (See end of Document for details)

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- (5) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

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**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1360/2005, Introductory Text. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (1) [OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80](#). Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2223/2004 ([OJ L 379, 24.12.2004, p. 1](#)).
- (2) [OJ L 270, 21.10.2003, p. 1](#). Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 118/2005 ([OJ L 24, 27.1.2005, p. 15](#))
- (3) [OJ L 153, 30.4.2004, p. 30](#).

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1360/2005, Introductory Text.