



# Commission Covid response initiatives: Agriculture & rural development

Helen Williams  
DG AGRI/E.2

*RURITAGE Webinar – 8 July 2020*

# Overview

1. Emergency responses for agriculture & rural development
2. Recovery and resilience
3. Wider policy initiatives

# Coronavirus: Emergency response

- Amendments of Rural Development Programmes
- New rural development measure, in addition to existing measures
- Flexibility in the use of financial instruments under rural development
- Higher advances of payments
- Higher state aid possibilities
- CAP flexibility:
  - Extension of deadline for CAP payment applications
  - Fewer farm on-the-spot checks

# Coronavirus: new rural development measure

## – main features

- Exceptional and temporary measure to cope with liquidity problems of farmers and agri-food SMEs
- Lump sum of maximum EUR 7 000 per farmer and EUR 50 000 per SME
- Payments shall be made to the selected beneficiaries by 30/06/2021.
- Maximum 2% of the EAFRD contribution to each RDP
- Large margin of flexibility for MS to target its implementation

# Cornavirus: Recovery and Resilience

- **Recovery Plan for Europe (27/05/2020):**

*‘kick-start the economy, boost green & digital transitions and make it fairer, more resilient and more sustainable for future generations’*

- **‘Next Generation EU’: EUR 750 bn**

**incl. reinforced budget for EAFRD + EUR16.5 bn (current prices) ---**  
available 2022-2024;

use in future CAP Strategic Plans;

new 10<sup>th</sup> CAP Specific Objective : *‘to support operations preparing the recovery of the economy.’*

- **Reinforced Multianual Financial Framework 2021-2027**

**incl. reinforcement of EAFRD + EUR 5.6 bn** (cf. COM 2018 MFF proposal)

# Wider policy linkages for rural development

- European Green Deal – incl Farm To Fork and Biodiversity strategies
- CAP Reform & preparation of MS CAP Strategic Plans
- Long Term Vision for Rural Areas

# Long-term vision for rural areas

## Why?

- To develop a broadly shared vision and keep rural areas high in the political agenda.

## How?

- In close consultation with people living in rural areas, local and regional authorities.
- Should address demography but should also go beyond and **embrace all aspects relevant for rural**

## When? Indicative!

- Public consultation Sep/2020; Communication 1st half 2021

# Closing reflections..

- Covid as a **challenge** for rural communities.....but also an **opportunity** to rethink our systems, to build sustainability & future resilience
  - Green transition
  - Digitalisation – infrastructure & skills
  - Rural tourism
  - Local food chains
  - Community solidarity
  - Networks



# Thank you



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