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Commission Notice

amending the European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014 to 2020 as regards their period of application

(Text with EEA relevance)

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Background

1. Pursuant to point (737) of the European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014 to 2020¹ (hereafter "the Guidelines"), these Guidelines are applicable until 31 December 2020.
2. On 8 September 2018, the Commission launched a review of the Guidelines with the view to replace them with new Guidelines for the period 2021 to 2027. The design of those future Guidelines will largely depend on the future rules applicable to rural development support under the proposed Regulation on strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)². However, the legislative procedure for adopting that Regulation is still pending and the basic act and the ensuing delegated and implementing rules will not be adopted in time for implementing the new legislation as of 1 January 2021. Therefore, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation [.../...] ³ laying down certain transitional provisions to ensure continuity of CAP support under the conditions of the existing legal framework beyond 31 December 2020 until 31 December 2021. The entry into application of the new CAP legislation and of the revised State aid rules should be simultaneous and it is therefore appropriate to extend the period of application of the Guidelines until 31 December 2021.

Amendment

3. The first sentence of point (737) of The European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014 to 2020 is replaced by the following:

"These Guidelines are applicable until 31 December 2021."

¹ OJ C 204, 1.7.2014, p. 1.

² Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (COM(2018)392 final).

³ Regulation (EU) [.../...] of the European Parliament and of the Council of [...] laying down certain transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 229/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and their distribution in respect of the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards their resources and application in the year 2021 (OJ L[...]).