



Use of new technologies in claim year 2020 and beyond: flexibility offered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as incentive for a true paradigm shift

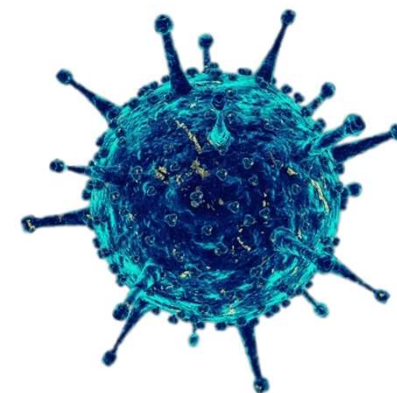
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This presentation is about

1. What COM offered to facilitate the execution of checks in CY 2020
 - a. In terms of use of technologies
 - b. In direct payments (IACS)
2. What could be achieved in practice
3. How the experience of CY 2020 could help promote the use of new technologies in the future

Role of COM in supporting that change

Background



- Work at ultra high speed to provide immediate relief
- Unprecedented circumstances opening the way to alternative solutions
- Unique opportunity to expand the use of new technologies
 - Notably to rural development and markets
- Very positive perception both inside the Commission and in Member States
- **Regulation 2020/532 adopted 16 April 2020**
- Guidance document also published, but focusing on traditional OTSC

Most relevant provisions of Chapter I

Direct payments and area and animal related RD measures (IACS)

- Article 2
 - Derogation from field visits in case imagery inconclusive
- Article 3
 - Related to second visit, in particular greening

Admittedly **limited** scope...

Rural Development non area and non animal measures (non-IACS)

- Article 6
 - Administrative checks: On-site visits to check the realisation of investment
- Article 7
 - OTSC on all non-IACS such as investments or LEADER expenditure

Novelty: Introducing geo-taggs to non-IACS !

Articles 2 & 3 of Regulation 2020/532

- What is actually offered in these provisions?
- MS may fully substitute physical inspections by:
 - Photo-interpretation of satellite/aerial imagery
 - Other relevant evidence such as geo-tagged photos
- Article 3 clearly refers to the use of new technologies
- Wording differs but the idea is the same!
- Both provisions flexible => no COM list of alternative methods, PAs can choose what works for them



How could this work in practice?

Considering the exceptional circumstances of CY 2020

- No time to offer hands-on training or guidance by COM
- Not a good moment for MS to invest in unknown novelties
- Reliance on existing tools and skills
- Make it as user-friendly as possible: full discretion of MS
 1. You choose the most suitable solutions
 2. No need to notify to COM your decision
 3. No approval of the methods, they just need to provide reliable evidence

What about the CbM front runners?

- The best student in class must work twice as hard?
- At first glance nothing to change

BUT

- what about the check of non-monitorable elements?
- COM will rectify the omission, changes in the pipeline
- General reflection on the scope of “monitorability” as a concept to allow expanding CbM to a greater variety of aid schemes
- This is also in line with ECA Recommendations in SR 4/2020

What expectations COM had?



- Realistic! Considering the overall context.
- Actual use of new technologies would depend on the duration of movement restrictions: being prepared for worst-case scenario
 - OTSC not possible at all in CY 2020!?
- 1. MS running CbM pilots could use results to substitute classical OTSC
- 2. enable use of DIAS to obtain information on agricultural activity
- 3. Geo-tagged photos as a viable low-cost alternative
- 4. General capacity building

Lessons for COM

- Of course more support & guidance!!
- Need to accept small steps
(dated photos => geo-tags => CbM)
- This is an important first step, we can build on this experience in the future
- AMS is becoming a reality, we see more interest on the side of MS to test new technologies and get ready for the future!
- Different modernisation potential in aid schemes: area v. animals



What are your lessons & expectations?

- Did you adjust your working methods to face the COVID-19 restrictions?
- What technological tools would be the easiest to take on board?
- What would you change in the future?
 - as a result of lessons from CY 2020 or in general
- How would you like the COM to support you?

Thank you



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