



# 8<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS

10-12 SEPTEMBER 2014

BARI, ITALY

## *Opportunities for organic and agroecological farming in the Italian Rural Development programmes*

*Bari, 11th September 2014*

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# Legislative basis

- Programming period 2007-2013:  
Regulation (EC) n. 1698/2005
- Programming period 2014-2020:  
**Regulation (EU) n. 1305/2013**
- This regulation is the basis for the Rural development programmes, made of a set of measures aimed at fostering farmers in their agricultural activities



# How?

The RDPs have several objectives: in the 2014-2020 programming period these objectives are

1. fostering the competitiveness of agriculture;
2. **ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action;**
3. achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment.

Almost all the measures aimed at achieving objective 2 are called **Surface measures**.



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- In the programming period 2007-2013, the most important environmental measure was Measure 214, which contained several submeasures, among which
    - Organic agriculture
    - Integrated production
    - Other submeasures aimed at i.e. preserving the structure of soil, protection of habitats, water, ...

# 2014-2020 Programming period

- Regulation (EU) n. 1305/2013:
  - Art. 28 Agri-environment-climate
  - Art. 29 Organic farming
- Two different measures means that, according to the increased importance given by the European Union to the environmental issues and the organic production, both deserve their own kind of intervention.
- Two different measures means two different payments and therefore the possibility, in some cases, to sum the support rates of the two measures and go beyond the maximum support rate established for the single measure.



# Article 28 – Agri-environment-climate – Differences between the two programming periods

1. **Compulsory measure**
2. **Beneficiaries:** *farmers, groups of farmers and  
- groups of farmers and **other land-managers**  
- other land managers or groups of other land  
managers*
3. **Agricultural land**, which includes the agricultural area =  
*arable land + permanent grassland + permanent crops  
defined in Reg. (EU) n. 1307/2013*

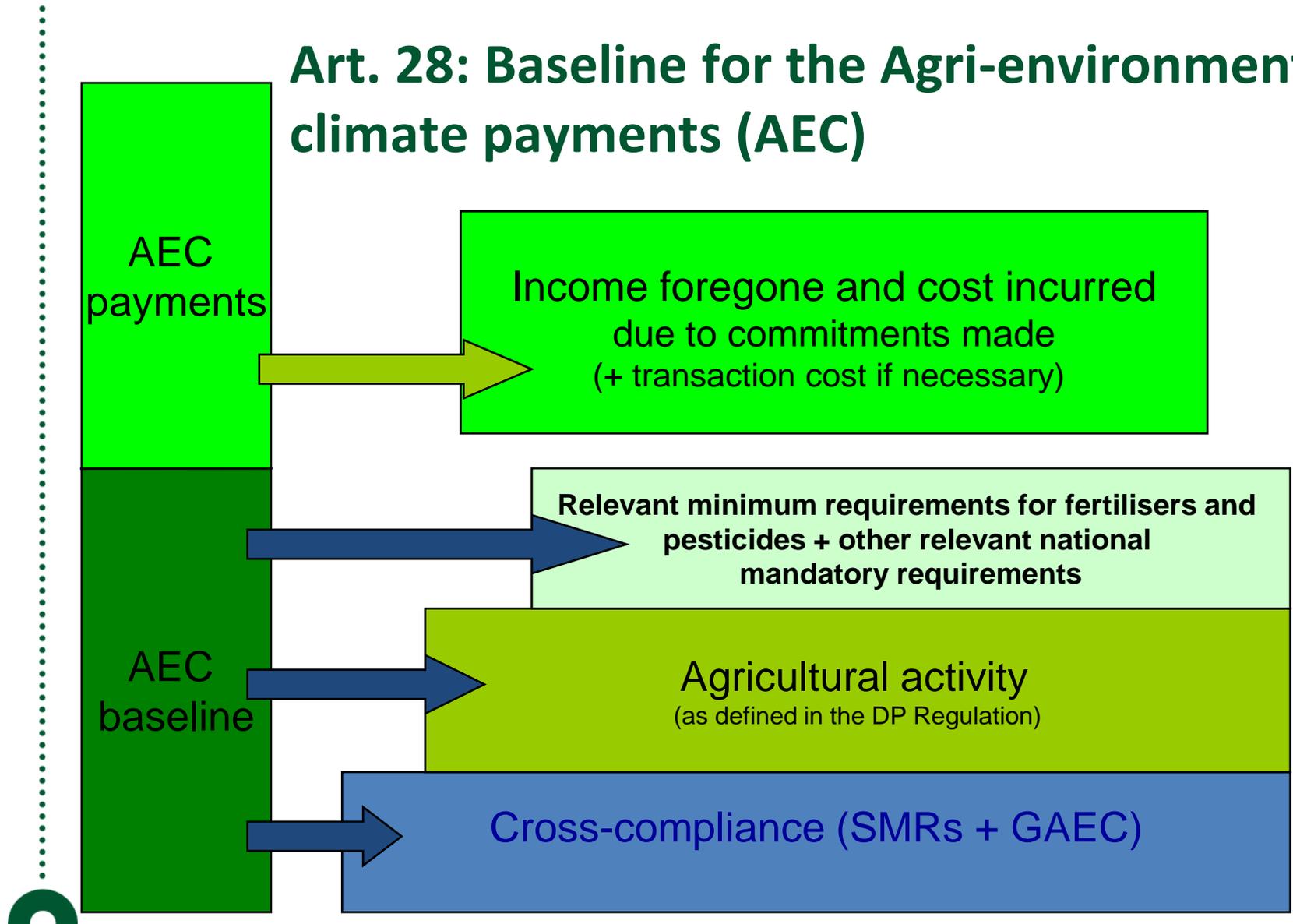


## Article 28 – Agri-environment-climate – Differences between the two programming periods

5. **Baseline: Cross Compliance + Agricultural activity**  
*(ordinary/ minimum) as defined in the DP Regulation +  
minimum requirements for fertilizer and plant  
protection products and other relevant mandatory  
requirements established by national legislation.*



# Art. 28: Baseline for the Agri-environment-climate payments (AEC)



## Article 28 – Agri-environment-climate – Differences between the two programming periods

6. *Support for advice and / or training (mandatory training if MA decides).*
7. **Transaction costs:** *max 20% if individual, max 30% if in associations (farmers or farmers and other land managers).*
8. **Avoid the double funding** *of commitments already envisaged by the greening.*
9. *Permanent renounce to the commercial use of land: a one-time lump sum payment or on the basis of additional costs and income foregone.*
10. *Selection criteria.*

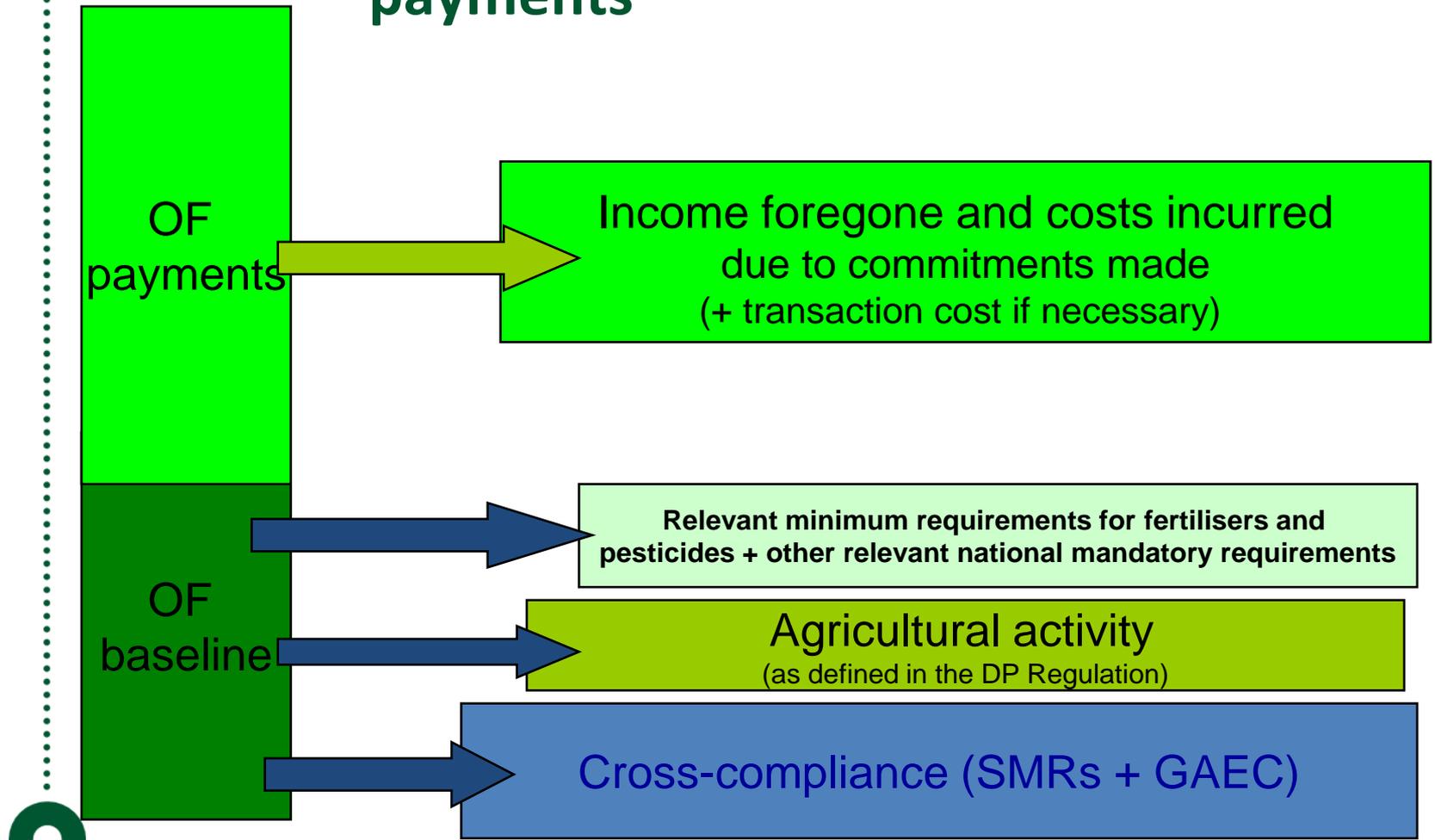


## Article 29 – Organic farming – Differences between the two programming periods

1. **Payments to farmers** ("**active farmers**" as defined in Article 9 of Reg. DP), groups of farmers to introduce or maintain organic production commitments (EC Reg. N. 834/2007 Council), per hectare of "agricultural area".
2. **Baseline: Cross Compliance + Agricultural activity** as defined in DP Regulation + minimum requirements for fertilizer and plant protection products and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national legislation.
3. **Transaction costs:** max 20% if individual, max 30% if in associations.
4. **Avoid the double funding** of commitments already envisaged by the greening.



# Art.29: Baseline for the Organic farming payments



# Greening and double funding

Reg. (EU) n. 1307/2013

- **Greening practices** (Art. 43):
  - Crop diversification
  - Permanent grassland
  - Ecological focus area
- **Equivalent practices** (Art. 43 and Annex IX)
- **Environmental certification schemes** (Art. 43)



# Greening and double funding

- Organic agriculture is exempted *ipso facto* from the respect of the greening practices.
- But the “no double funding” principle applies to the organic farmers



- As a result, when a commitment in the measure overlaps one of the three greening practices or an equivalent practice, a reduction must be made on the relevant second pillar payment



# Opportunities

- Sum, where possible, the support rates of Organic farming measure and Agri-environment-climate.
- Collective transaction costs in both Organic and AEC measure.
- Other land managers and Agricultural land in the AEC measure.

# Issues

- Principle of no double funding
- Agricultural activity increases the baseline