



IEEP CAP Health Check Review: The New GAEC Framework

Issue	Compulsory Standards	Optional Standards
Soil Erosion Protect soil through appropriate measures	Minimum soil cover	Retain terraces (<i>previously compulsory, where it was relevant</i>)
	Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions	
Soil Organic Matter Maintain soil organic matter levels through appropriate practices	Arable stubble management	Standard for crop rotations (<i>previously compulsory</i>)
Soil Structure Maintain soil structure through appropriate measures		Appropriate machinery use (<i>previously compulsory</i>)
Minimum Level of Maintenance Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats.	Retention of landscape features, including, where appropriate, hedges, ponds, ditches, trees in line, in group or isolated and field margins (<i>revised: previously 'retention of landscape features'</i>)	Minimum livestock stocking rates or/and appropriate regimes (<i>previously compulsory</i>)
	Avoid the encroachment of unwanted vegetation on agricultural land	Establishment and/ore retention of habitats (<i>new</i>)
	Protection of permanent pasture	Prohibition of the grubbing up of olive trees (<i>previously compulsory, where it was relevant</i>)
		Maintenance of olive groves and vines in good vegetative condition (<i>previously compulsory, where it was relevant</i>)
Protection and Management of Water (<i>new</i>)	Establishment of buffer strips along watercourses (<i>new</i>)	
Protect Water Against Pollution and Run-off, and Manage the Use of Water (<i>new</i>)	Where use of water for irrigation is subject to authorisation, compliance with authorisation procedures (<i>new</i>)	