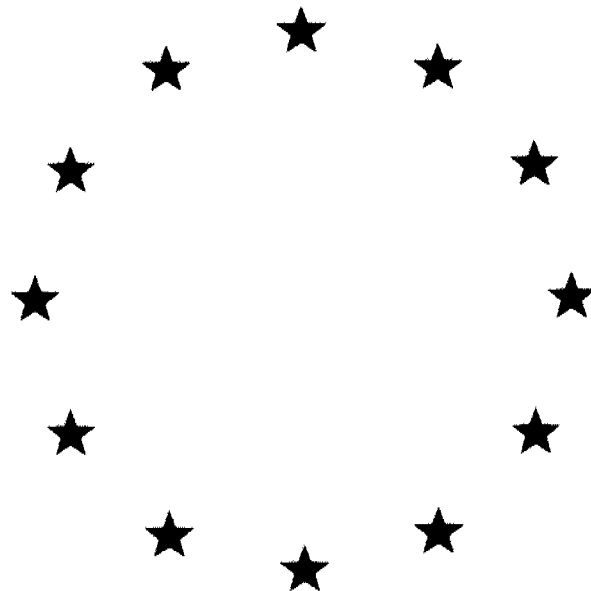




ENGLISH
NATURE

No. 159

Glossary of agri-environmental terms



Lowlands
Team

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English Nature Research Reports

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Glossary of Agri-Environmental Terms

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Further copies of this report are available from
English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough
PE1 1UA

ISSN 0967-876X
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Guide to the Glossary

The effect of farming on the natural environment has been increasingly acknowledged by farmers, advisors and policymakers in both the UK and European Union. There is a noticeable growth in interest about the environmental effects of the Common Agricultural Policy. Equally, a growing number of environmental policy measures also have an effect on agriculture, for example the EU "nitrates" and "habitats" Directives. In the 1992 CAP reform, some first steps were taken towards the integration of environmental and agricultural policy at the European level. Voluntary incentive schemes for adopting environmentally appropriate forms of land management have proliferated as a result of EU legislation.

This glossary aims to help English Nature staff understand the complexities of agricultural policy. It provides an introductory reference guide to selected mainstream agricultural and agri-environmental terms in common usage at international, EU and national level, by bringing together terms and definitions which are not otherwise available in a single source. Some terms from other Member States are also included. It attempts to cover:

- the EU institutional and legislative processes;
- the main elements of the CAP;
- policy approaches and mechanisms;
- UK implementation of EU policy;
- agri-environmental initiatives; and
- some technical terms where appropriate.

There is also a bibliography which lists useful sources of more detailed information on many of the topics covered.

Although the coverage of the glossary is broad, it cannot claim to be comprehensive. Undoubtedly some subjects of interest to readers have been inadvertently omitted. Whilst every effort has been made to make the entries factually correct, there may be some inaccuracies amongst points of detail and some figures will become dated. Therefore, comments from readers on how it may be improved would be welcomed. Please address suggestions to Gerry Hamersley at English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA. Depending upon the demand and usefulness of the glossary it will occasionally be updated, perhaps to include quickly changing information, such as rates of payment.

Using the Glossary

All main entries in the glossary, whether single words, abbreviations, acronyms or foreign words are entered in bold and in alphabetical order in the main text.

Cross-references from one entry to another are shown by the use of small capitals, eg **FEOGA** see **EAGGF**.

Foreign language entries are written in italics eg *prime a l'herbe* and the country of origin of the term is denoted in abbreviated form in brackets following the term eg *prime a l'herbe* (F).

Abbreviations used in the Glossary

Aus = Austrian
EI = Irish
EU = European Union

ESP = Spanish
F = French
FRG = German

AAPS See ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME.

accompanying measures Introduced in the MACSHARRY REFORM of the COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY and composed of three separate Regulations which allow Member States to introduce national measures concerning the environment (AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92), retirement (EARLY RETIREMENT REGULATION 2079/92) and forestry (FORESTRY REGULATION 2080/92). Of the three Regulations, implementation of agri-environment Regulation 2078/92 and forestry Regulation 2080/92 by Member States is obligatory. Payments to farmers under each measure are financed partly from the Guarantee Section of the EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE GUIDANCE AND GUARANTEE FUND and partly by individual national governments.

action programmes on the environment First EC environmental action programme issued in 1972. Contained a general statement of the objectives and principles of a proposed Community environmental policy and spelled out action that the European Commission would propose, representing the first major step in the development of EC environmental policy. Since then, four more environmental action programmes have been issued (see Table 1) which suggest specific proposals for legislation, future new directions and broad environmental policy ideas. They provide a policy framework but have no legislative force. The current FIFTH ACTION PROGRAMME is due for review in 1996.

Table 1: Timetable of action programmes on the environment

	Period covered	Date approved	oJ Reference
1st	1973-76	22.11.73	C112 20.12.73
2nd	1977-81	17.05.77	C139 13.06.77
3rd	1982-86	07.02.83	C46 17.02.83
4th	1987-92	19.10.87	C328 07.12.87
5th	1993-2000	01.02.93	C138 17.05.93

Agriculture Council See COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

agri-environment Regulation 2078/92 one of the three ACCOMPANYING MEASURES introduced in the MACSHARRY REFORM of the CAP and known formally as the "Council Regulation on Agricultural Production Methods compatible with the Requirements of the Protection of the Environment and the Maintenance of the Countryside" (OJ L215, 30.7.92). Obliges all Member States to offer farmers a set of incentive payments for voluntarily pursuing the objectives of environmental protection and the extensification of production by means of a number of possible schemes (see Box 1). The Regulation marks an important step towards a more environmentally sensitive CAP and provides scope for introducing measures which address specific local conditions and concerns and encourages the development of HORIZONTAL and/or ZONAL PROGRAMMES. New or existing schemes may be included under the Regulation, subject to approval by the European Commission, and Community funding of between 50 and 75 % is provided from the Guarantee section of the EUROPEAN GUIDANCE AND GUARANTEE FUND. In the UK, the value of EC co-funding is lower in practice due to the FOINTAINBLEAU AGREEMENT. UK schemes approved under the Regulation include: ORGANIC AID SCHEME, HABITATS SCHEME, COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS SCHEME, ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS, COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (England only), TIR CYMEN (Wales only), NITRATE SENSITIVE AREAS (England only), MOORLAND SCHEME (England and Wales), HEATHER MOORLAND EXTENSIFICATION SCHEME (Scotland).

Box 1: Aid schemes possible under Regulation 2078/92

1. Subject to positive effects on the environment and the countryside, the scheme may include aid for farmers who undertake:
 - a. to reduce substantially their use of fertilisers and/or plant protection products, or to keep the reductions already made, or to introduce or continue with organic farming methods;
 - b. to change, by means other than those referred to in (a), to more extensive forms of crop, including forage, production, or to maintain extensive production methods introduced in the past, or to convert arable land into extensive grassland;
 - c. to reduce the proportion of sheep and cattle per forage area;
 - d. to use other farming practices compatible with the requirements of protection of the environment and natural resources, as well as maintenance of the countryside and the landscape, or to rear animals of local breeds in danger of extinction;
 - e. to ensure the upkeep of abandoned farmland or woodlands;
 - f. to set-aside farmland for at least 20 years with a view to its use for purposes connected with the environment, in particular for the establishment of biotope reserves or natural parks or for the protection of hydrological systems;
 - g. to manage land for public access and leisure activities.
2. In addition, the scheme may include measures to improve the training of farmers with regard to farming or forestry practices compatible with the environment.

There is also provision for the cultivation and propagation of "useful plants adapted to local conditions and threatened by genetic erosion".

AONB See AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY.

Arable Area Payments Scheme (AAPS) Established during the MACSHARRY REFORMS of the CAP by means of EC Regulation 1765/92 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops and subsequent amendments. Applies to four categories of arable crops: cereals such as wheat, durum wheat, rye, barley, oats and maize; oilseeds such as soya bean, rape and sunflower; protein crops such as peas, field beans and lupins; and linseed. Principal features are a system of direct subsidies paid per hectare of arable land and a requirement on farmers producing more than 92 tonnes of cereals per annum to SET-ASIDE a proportion of their arable area every year in order to qualify for the subsidies. Direct subsidies are intended to compensate farmers for the 35 per cent reduction in institutional price support occurring between 1992 and 1996. As price support decreases, the level of compensation per tonne of arable crops is increased (see Box 2) and converted into area payments for farmers on the basis of average historic yields for regions defined by each Member State. The UK is divided into seven yield regions: England, Wales LESS FAVOURED AREA (LFA), Wales non-LFA, Scotland LFA, Scotland non-LFA, Northern Ireland LFA and Northern Ireland non-LFA. For each region the reference yields are calculated as a combination of the regional average yield and the UK average yield. BASE AREAS defined by each Member State specify the maximum area of arable land for which arable aid claims can be made in any year.

Box 2: Amount of compensatory payment

1993/94:	ECU 25 per tonne x average cereal yield for each region*
1994/95:	ECU 35 per tonne x average cereal yield for each region
1995/96:	ECU 45 per tonne x average cereal yield for each region

* calculated by taking the years 1986/87 to 1990/91 and eliminating the years of highest and lowest yield. A separate yield for maize may be calculated.

Farmers claiming compensatory payments on eligible land must join one of two schemes according to their annual production: the MAIN SCHEME or the SIMPLIFIED SCHEME.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) Areas of countryside in England and Wales outside NATIONAL PARKS. Designated by the Countryside Commission and the Countryside Council for Wales under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and by the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland under the Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. The principal objective is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, including the protection of wildlife and geological and landscape features. Although intended to be of equal status to National Parks, there are no special statutory administrative or financial arrangements for AONBs. However, local authorities are encouraged to prepare strategic and management plans for them and to consider potential developments very carefully.

Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) In Northern Ireland only, designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. Also designated in England, Scotland and Wales but universally known as SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST. Responsibility of the Environment Service of the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland.

Article 19 Areas See ARTICLE 21 AREAS.

Article 21 Areas French equivalent to the UK's ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS. Formerly called "Article 19 Areas" after the article of EC Regulation 797/85 under which they were designated, subsequently superseded by Article 21 of EC Regulation 2328/91.

Article 39 See COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

ASSIs See AREAS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

base area Defined as the average number of hectares within a region determined by the Member State and sown to arable crops or set-aside under the voluntary five-year scheme during 1989, 1990 and 1991. Enables calculation of the compensatory payments due to farmers under the ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME to offset the reduction in the price of cereals. Penalties in the form of reduced compensatory payments and uncompensated set-aside are imposed if the base areas are exceeded. Member States may calculate the base area individually for each producer or at the scale of production regions. Separate base areas may be established for maize and other arable crops. In the UK, there are five base areas: England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland LESS FAVOURED AREA (LFA) and Scotland non-LFA. The England and Wales areas are divided into separate maize and other crops base areas.

beef and veal regime See COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION FOR BEEF AND VEAL.

Beef Extensification Premium In addition to the BEEFSPECIAL PREMIUM SCHEME and the SUCKLER COW PREMIUM SCHEME, producers with a stocking density of less than 1.4 LIVESTOCK UNITS per hectare (for all stock on the holding) may qualify for an extra subsidy per animal.

Beef Special Premium Scheme Provided for under Regulation 805/68 (OJ L148, 28.6.68) on the COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION OF THE MARKET IN BEEF AND VEAL, the scheme was introduced in 1987 and revised following the MACSHARRY REFORM of the CAP. The detailed rules are set out in Regulation 3886/92 (OJ L391, 31.12.92). Provides support payments for young male animals at 10 months and 22 months per year and per holding for up to 90 head per age bracket. As with SUCKLER COW PREMIUM, claimants are subject to STOCKING DENSITY LIMITS at a maximum stocking density per hectare of FORAGE AREA which has been gradually reduced since the introduction of the scheme. A further cap on the support occurs through the requirement for Member States to impose either a "regional ceiling" on claims or impose quotas at the level of individual producers. If claims exceed the ceiling in a year, all claims are reduced proportionately. In the UK, separate regional ceilings for England and Wales (940,380 head), Scotland (244,780 head) and Northern Ireland (234,000 head) have been imposed. UK government may withhold premium in the event of severe overgrazing occurring.

biodiesel Vegetable oil obtained from annual arable crops which is esterified for use in diesel engines. Usually derived from rapeseed (when it is also known as rape methyl ester or diester) but may also be obtained from sunflowers, soya or palms.

biodiversity Defined in Article 2 of the CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."

biofuels Biologically derived products used for energy production, including wood from SHORT ROTATION COPPING for burning, biogas (about 60 % methane) from the anaerobic digestion of organic matter, liquid fuels such as ethanol from starch and sugar crops and BIODIESEL. Of increasing interest as a source of renewable, environmentally friendly energy. However, the environmental case for large scale biofuel production depends on a number of factors; the intensity of cropping, the area of land required, the ratio of energy input to energy output, the impact on landscape and biodiversity and economic viability.

Biogenetic Reserve Designation promoted by the Council of Europe since 1975 for natural or semi-natural areas considered representative of Europe's fauna, flora and which act as "living laboratories" for research into ecosystems. The sites are part of a network for the co-ordination and exchange of information. In the UK, there are around 19 such reserves covering nearly 8000 ha.

Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy See PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY.

Biosphere Reserves IUCN and UNESCO initiative under which areas of land or coast are designated by a State as being of international importance for conservation, study and sustainable development. Form part of a worldwide network of reserves each of which falls into at least one of four categories, including landscapes resulting from traditional patterns of land-use, representative natural biomes, ecosystems capable of being restored and unique communities or areas with unusual natural features.

birds Directive EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds 79/409/EEC which places a general duty on Member States to maintain the population of all "species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state" in their European territory "at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements". Member States are to create protected areas (SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS), manage habitats inside and outside these areas, re-establish destroyed biotopes and create new ones. A general system of protection for all species of wild birds is to be laid down by Member States with some exceptions for hunting and certain other reasons. Annexes to the Directive list particularly vulnerable species which are to be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat, species which may be hunted under national legislation, restrictions on the sale of wild birds, prohibited methods of killing birds and research subjects. Member States may introduce stricter protective measures than those provided for under the Directive. In May 1992, the HABITATS DIRECTIVE was agreed. This specifies certain obligations on Member States which will replace those arising as a result of Article 4 (4) of the present Directive. Implemented in UK through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

blue box See GREEN BOX.

buffer strip Usually of uncultivated land at least 1 metre wide between the edge of the crop and boundary features. May also be situated alongside sensitive habitats such as water bodies. No fertilisers or pesticides are applied to strips. Also known as boundary or sterile strip. May be used to protect features from agricultural inputs or as a weed management measure. Strips of cultivated land where no pesticides are applied are used in some conditions. Alongside areas where certain pesticides are in use, there is a statutory requirement for the establishment of buffer strips of six metres, usually adjacent to water bodies.

buffer zone Areas of grass or scrub established around sensitive habitats such as water bodies, SSSIs etc. Usually between 6 - 20 metres wide and not treated with any fertilisers or pesticides except herbicides to control docks, thistles and ragwort.

CAIS See COUNTRYSIDE AND AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SERVICE.

CAP See COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

CMO See COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION.

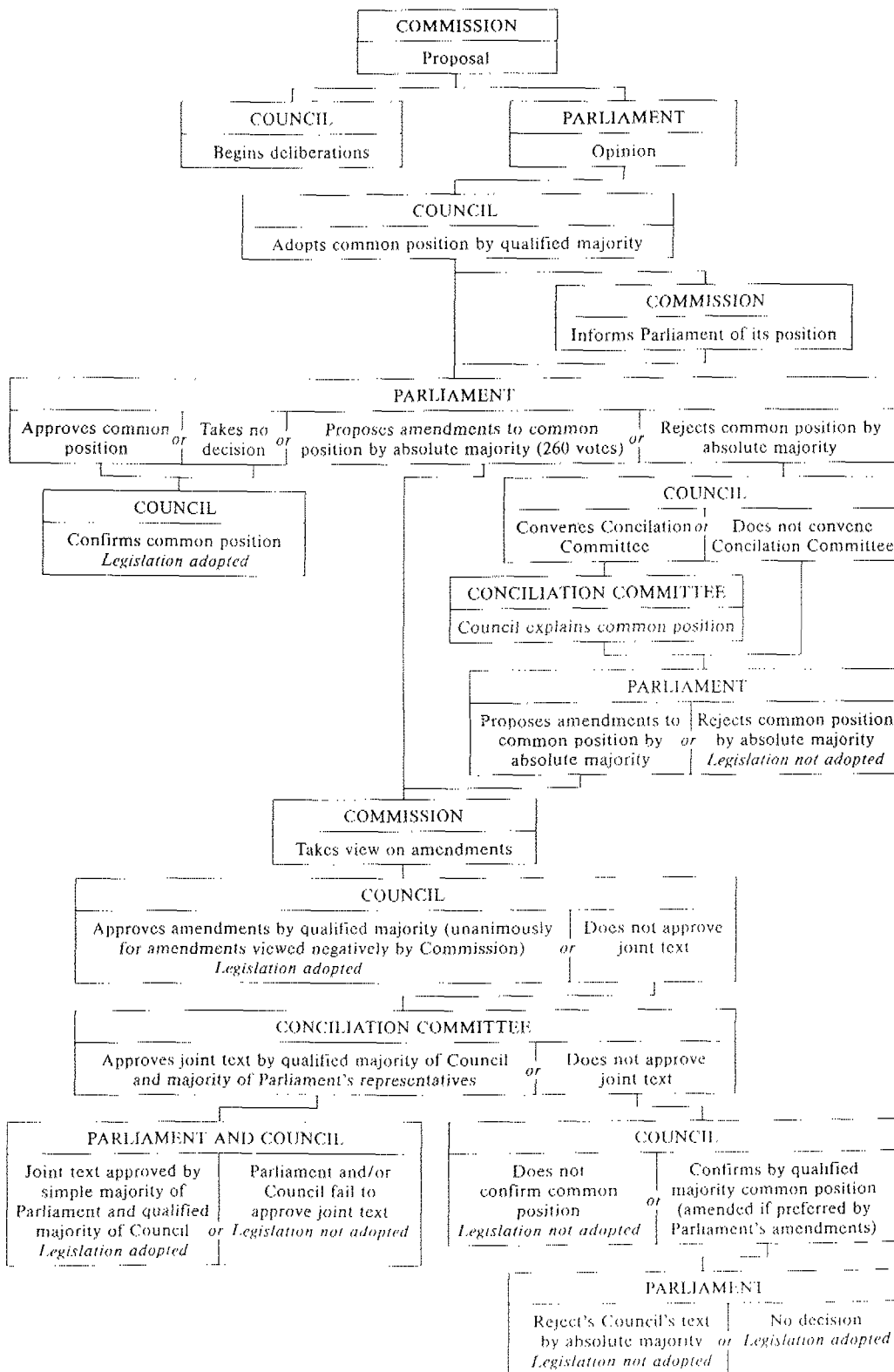
coastal retreat In the UK, an experimental method of coastal defence where the sea is allowed to inundate existing sea walls and create a salt marsh with a new lower sea wall built further back from the coast on higher ground. The sea marsh absorbs wave energy as well as creating wildlife habitat and is considered a longer lasting and cheaper alternative to rebuilding higher sea walls in certain locations.

coastal zones In UK, there is no standard demarcation of the coastal zone above the mean low water mark. Various authorities and agencies control activities in the coastal zone including local planning authorities, National Rivers Authority in conjunction with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, English Nature and Countryside Commission. There is no national framework for co-ordination between these bodies. Some progress towards INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT has been made at EC level.

co-decision procedure Introduced by the MAASTRICHT TREATY in 1992, it is one of several processes for taking decisions on new EU measures (see CONSULTATION PROCEDURE and CO-OPERATION PROCEDURE). It applies to a limited number of environmental measures. MEPs can block measures they consider inadequate, despite the COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' support (see Fig. 1). The most important of the environmental policy areas to be decided by co-decision is legislation

relating to the establishment of the single market, including product and pollution control standards. The procedure means that the Council of Ministers no longer has the final say on those legislative proposals to which it applies. Most environmental legislation is adopted under the co-operation procedure.

Figure 1: Co-decision procedure



Codes of Good Agricultural Practice Practical guides which set out minimum environmental standards that should be observed by farmers without affecting the economic viability of the farm. May also include advice to farmers on how to enhance the farmed environment. Usually published by agricultural authorities. The EC NITRATES DIRECTIVE requires Member States to lay down voluntary Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the protection of water in designated zones. A number of Codes have been published in the UK, some of which are statutory which means that it is not an offence for a farmer not to keep to the Code but it could be taken into account in any legal action against the farmer. However, following the Code is not a defence against a charge of causing pollution.

- ◆ **Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Air** Non-statutory code for England and Wales.
- ◆ **Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil** Non-statutory code for England and Wales.
- ◆ **Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water** A statutory code for England and Wales.
- ◆ **Code of Good Practice: Prevention of environmental pollution from agricultural activity** Single code for Scotland which covers main agricultural activities which can give rise to air, water or soil pollution. Parts of the code relating to water pollution are statutory.
- ◆ **Code of Good Upland Management** Non-statutory guidance for uplands farmers in UK.
- ◆ **Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings** Statutory code for Great Britain, provides guidance on the use of pesticides from the point of view of the user.
- ◆ **Heather and Grass Burning Code** Non-statutory code which summarises the laws governing the burning of heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse and vaccinium in England and Wales and gives practical guidance.
- ◆ **Muirburn Code** Non-statutory code published by SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE which summarises the law governing the burning of heather moorland in Scotland and gives practical guidance.

Cohesion Fund Agreed at the European Summit in December 1992 and established through Council Regulation 94/1164/EEC. The Fund, of ECU 15,150 million between 1993 and 1999, aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion by reducing disparities between Member States and currently provides finance to projects in the four poorest Member States; Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. The UK is not currently eligible to receive support from the Fund. A review of eligibility to the Fund is due by the end of 1999. There are two categories of project eligible for support; environmental and transport infrastructure projects. In reality, more assistance has been given to transport, an imbalance which the Commission is now trying to correct.

Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) Undertakes the same task as the SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE but for non-agricultural matters.

Committee of the Regions (COR) Created by the Maastricht Treaty to represent local and regional interests in the EU and gives formal Opinions to the Council on Commission legislative proposals of concern to local and regional interests.

Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development Commonly referred to as the STAR Committee, made up of representatives of national ministries, predominantly agriculture ministries but environment departments may be represented too, and chaired by the Commission. Meets regularly and reviews structural measures, including agri-environment schemes under AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92 and approves them for part reimbursement from the CAP budget.

commodity regime See COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Often referred to in Europe by its French acronym, *PAC*, it provides the principal framework for agricultural policy in all 15 EU countries. Although there are some areas of policy which remain the preserve of national governments and there are certain aspects of the CAP where a measure of national or regional discretion is permitted, agriculture policy is formulated and amended predominantly at the EU level. Principal objectives of the common agricultural market are enshrined in Article 39 of the TREATY OF ROME. They are: to increase agricultural productivity; to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community; to stabilise markets; to assure the availability of supplies; and to guarantee reasonable prices for consumers. The Treaty also mentions some of the instruments to be used, including a common organisation of the markets and the establishment of one or more Community funds. There is no reference to the environment or the protection of natural resources in these objectives. When the SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT and later the MAASTRICHT TREATY were negotiated, there was no serious attempt made to amend Article 39. The CAP was built on three basic principles or "pillars": Community preference, common prices and common financing. The regulation of trade and markets in different agricultural commodities remains at the core of the CAP. It contains a battery of measures to allow intervention in the market, including tariffs on imports, the support of minimum price levels by measures such as subsidised exports, subsidies for farmers and for processors, investment aid for farm modernisation and forestry, support for rural development, assistance for research and development, etc. Prices for most commodities are maintained at a level which is usually substantially higher than the world market. The policy is supported by a substantial budget, currently around ECU 36 billion per annum (approximately £29 billion). A major reform of the CAP (MACSHARRY REFORM) was undertaken in 1992 in an attempt to reduce overproduction and expenditure and there is speculation about further changes being required, not least in order to accommodate Central and Eastern European countries (CEC) into the EU.

common market organisation (cmo) Refers to measures governing the EU internal market in a number of agricultural commodities. There are now market organisations for the great majority of commodities produced in the EU. One of the few exceptions is potatoes which are not subject to the CAP. The three sectors commanding the largest share of the budget have been cereals (18 per cent in 1993), milk products (nearly 15 per cent) and beef and veal (nearly 12 per cent).

- ◆ **cmo for beef and veal** Governed by Council Regulation 805/68, includes measures affecting live animals, meat and preparations of meat. Measures taken include intervention, private storage aid schemes, and a number of premium schemes (some of which are subject to limits on eligibility); BEEF SPECIAL PREMIUM SCHEME, SUCKLER COW PREMIUM SCHEME, BEEF EXTENSIFICATION PREMIUM.
- ◆ **cmo for cereals** Governed by Council Regulation 2727/75 and Council Regulation 1766/92 and amendments. Provides support in the form of intervention and the ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME jointly with oilseeds and protein crops.
- ◆ **cmo for milk and milk products** Governed by Council Regulation 68/804/EEC and includes measures affecting milk and cream, butter, cheese and curds, lactose and lactose syrup, milk-based compound feedingstuffs. Measures taken include intervention and milk quota allocated to individual producers. The sector takes a large share of total FEOGA funding.
- ◆ **cmo for sheepmeat and goatmeat** Governed by Council Regulation 89/3013/EEC, includes measures affecting live animals, meat, processed products and offal. Measures taken include import and export arrangements, intervention in the form of aid for the private storage of meat and a system of direct payments per head for ewes kept on the farm (subject to quota), the SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM scheme.

community forest A UK term for multi-purpose mixed forest integrated with open farmland and sited on the fringes of urban centres with the aim of improving landscape, creating habitat, providing recreational opportunities and, in the long term, timber production. Promoted by local authorities from their own resources in conjunction with the WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME or under the Government's COMMUNITY FORESTS INITIATIVE.

Community Forests Initiative UK government scheme promoting the creation of formally designated COMMUNITY FOREST. Business plans for three such areas in England have been approved for Thames Chase, Forest of Mercia and the Great North Forest. Equivalent schemes are the Central Scotland Woodlands Initiative and the Community Woodlands Initiative in Northern Ireland.

Community Law Legislation produced by the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION and the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, together with the law embodied in the TREATY OF ROME and the treaties of accession to the Community. Takes precedence over national law.

compliance letters Means by which Member States transmit to the Commission a statement of the national legislation, regulations or administrative measures that give formal effect to a Directive.

conditionality Term often used, for example by the UK countryside agencies, to refer to the attachment of conditions (usually environmental) to agricultural support payments. Also known as CROSS-COMPLIANCE.

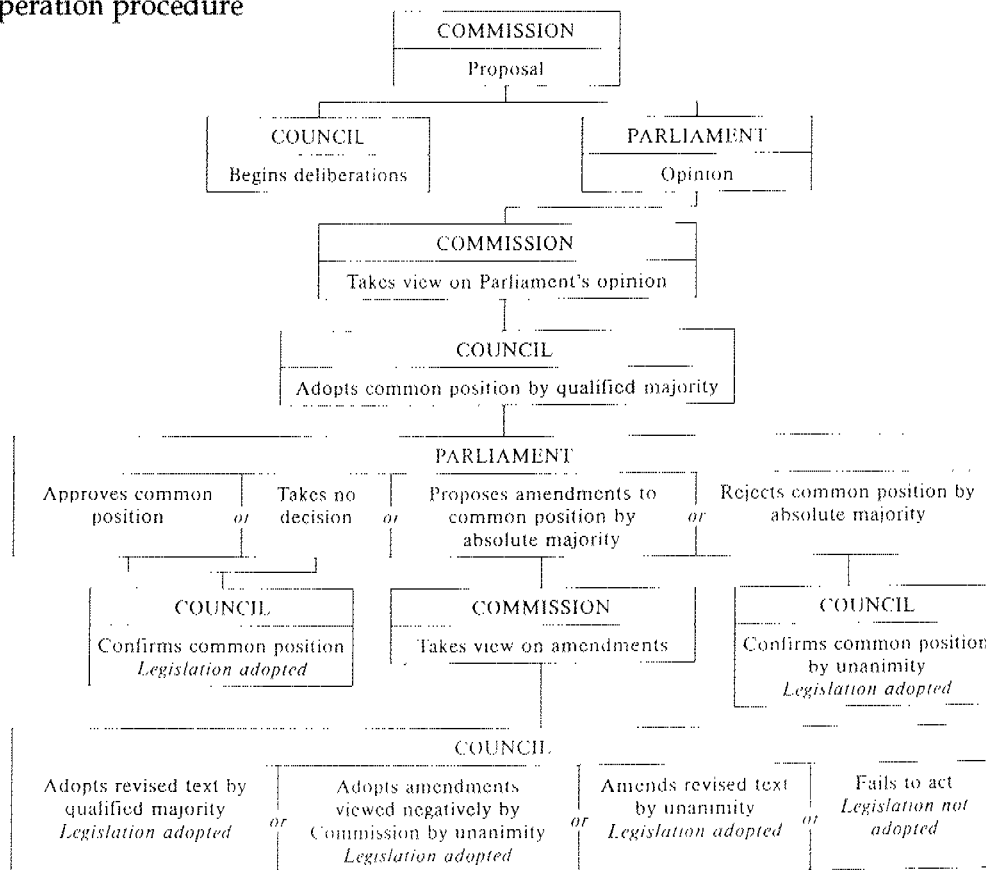
conservation headland HEADLAND treated usually in spring/summer with selective pesticides only to control certain weeds. Aims to encourage a strip around the field containing broad-leaved weeds and beneficial insects which feed on them, which in turn provide food for chicks and small mammals. Usually found in cereal crops. A measure developed by the Game Conservancy.

consultation procedure Legislative process by which certain areas of EC policy are adopted, as specified in Article 130s of the MAASTRICHT TREATY. The European Parliament's role is restricted to giving an opinion on the legislation, which may be in the form of suggested amendments. Once this opinion has been given, the Council may then adopt the legislation with or without incorporating amendments. Unanimity in the Council is required for those environmental measures relating to town and country planning, land-use (with the exception of waste management and "measures of a general nature" where QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING will apply), the management of water resources, measures which affect energy supply and measures primarily of a fiscal nature. (See also CO-DECISION PROCEDURE and CO-OPERATION PROCEDURE)

Convention on Biological Diversity Signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 by over 150 countries including the UK and the European Community. The Convention requires Contracting Parties to develop new or adapt existing national strategies or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. As a follow-up to the Convention, the UK government published a Biodiversity Action Plan which includes the established agri-environmental measures.

co-operation procedure Complicated legislative procedure (see Fig. 2) under which most environmental legislation is adopted, as specified in Article 130s of the MAASTRICHT TREATY. (see also CO-DECISION PROCEDURE and CONSULTATION PROCEDURE).

Fig 2: Co-operation procedure



Co-ordination of Information on the Environment Programme (CORINE) Experimental project initiated in 1985 following a decision by the Council with the aim of collecting, co-ordinating and ensuring the consistency of information on the state of the environment and natural resources in the EC. Priority actions in the EU include compilation of an inventory of biotopes of importance for nature conservation and work on the availability and comparability of data. The classification system developed in the biotopes inventory project formed the basis of the selection of important habitat types in the HABITATS DIRECTIVE.

CORINE See CO-ORDINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

Council of the European Union The major legislative body of the Community, known as the Council, consisting of a relevant minister, eg agriculture or environment, from each Member State who meet regularly and take final decisions and adopt legislation. Each Member State holds the chair at all Council meetings for a six-month period (see Table 2). Also known as Council of Ministers, Environment Council, Agriculture Council etc depending on the sector for which it is responsible.

Table 2: Timetable of presidencies of the Council

Member State	Start of presidency	Year
Italy	January	1996
Ireland	July	1996
Netherlands	January	1997
Luxembourg	July	1997
United Kingdom	January	1998
Austria	July	1998
Germany	January	1999
Finland	July	1999
Portugal	January	2000
France	July	2000
Sweden	January	2001
Belgium	July	2001
Spain	January	2002
Denmark	July	2002
Greece	January	2003

Countryside Access Scheme Implemented under the EC AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92 in England and Wales. Known as Set-aside Access Scheme in Scotland. Aims to encourage farmer to open set-aside land to the public for recreation. Five year agreements provide annual payments to farmers who manage access routes or open field sites for public access. A maximum of 15 hectares can be entered into the scheme on any one holding. Administered by MAFF and WOAD.

Countryside and Agricultural Information Service (CAIS) Initiative launched in January 1995 by Welsh Office Agriculture Department in partnership with the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS), COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES, National Parks and the Forestry Authority. By means of a network of advisers, it provides a single source for farmers of free advice on the most suitable agri-environment and forestry support schemes. A so-called FIRST STOP SHOP.

Countryside Commission See NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCIES.

Countryside Council for Wales See NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCIES.

Countryside Premium Scheme A pilot scheme in the eastern counties of England, launched in 1989 by the Countryside Commission with the aim of testing the management of Five Year Voluntary SET-ASIDE for environmental benefits. Farmers entered into three year contracts. Scheme closed in 1993 but payments continue to be made until existing contracts expire. Covered a total of around 6,700 hectares.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme Voluntary, discretionary scheme in England aimed at protecting and enhancing certain valued landscapes (chalk and limestone grassland, lowland heaths, old meadows and pastures, waterside and historic landscapes, the coast and uplands, field boundaries and margins), wildlife and public access. It differs from the ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS SCHEME in that it is more flexible and not confined to fixed designated areas. Farmers and landowners joining the scheme receive annual and capital payments for following certain management prescriptions over a 10 year period. Like ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS, farmers and landowners joining the scheme have a choice of different management tiers which provide varying levels of annual payments. Originally launched by the Countryside Commission in June 1991, the scheme is now co-funded by the EU under AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92. Responsibility for the scheme transferred to MAFF in 1996. It is merged with the FARM AND CONSERVATION GRANT SCHEME from April 1996. TIR CYMEN is a near equivalent in Wales.

cross-compliance A concept originally developed in the USA where the term refers to the requirement for farmers claiming subsidies under one programme to meet both the rules for that programme and certain obligations of other programmes. The use of cross-compliance as a generic term referring to linkages between the provisions of different policy measures, not just agriculture, would seem appropriate. However, in the EU, it is already mostly used to refer specifically to the attachment of environmental conditions to agricultural support payments. Often used interchangeably with a number of other terms, including CONDITIONALITY, "environmental conditionality", "eco-responsibility", "conservation compliance", "environmental cross-compliance". The meaning and use of the term is further complicated by the identification of different variants (see Box 3).

Box 3: Variants of cross-compliance

- a. Red ticket (or mandatory) approach: eligibility for certain agricultural support payments is made contingent upon a farmer's attainment of given environmental standards.
- b. Orange ticket approach: eligibility for agricultural support payments is contingent upon farmers entering an otherwise voluntary incentive scheme with environmental objectives.
- c. Green ticket (or bonus) approach: farmers become eligible for additional levels of agricultural support if they comply with, or exceed a given set of environmental standards. This variant may not be considered to be strictly cross-compliance in the EU sense of the term as it does not involve any form of non-eligibility for support.

Decision Used by the institutions of the European Union to impose measures which are binding only on the party or parties to which they are addressed, such as a specific Member State, industry, company or individual. Directly applicable to those to which it is addressed and often used to impose penalties on companies.

decoupled payments A system of support relying on DIRECT PAYMENTS made to individual farmers which are totally unrelated to past or future levels of production and therefore cannot be used for production control. Although not in use in the CAP, the concept is supported by the UK government as a potential means of moving towards a free market. In the purest form, decoupled payments may be entirely free of any conditions or constraints.

DG See DIRECTORATE GENERAL.

- ◆ **DG VI** Division of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION with responsibility for agriculture and rural development.
- ◆ **DG XI** Division of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION with responsibility for the environment, nuclear safety and civil protection.

Directive Most commonly used EU legislative instrument and binding in terms of its objectives, for example that certain standards are to be met by certain dates, but Member States are free to choose the methods for doing so. More flexible than a REGULATION as a degree of interpretation by national governments is allowed. However, in cases where the provisions of the Directive are unconditional and precise and leave no national discretion in their application, the Directive is considered to have a direct effect.

Directorate General (DG) Division of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION of which there are 23, each concerned with a specific policy area (see Box 4). DG VI, with responsibility for agriculture and rural development (not fisheries), is one of the largest divisions and is responsible for implementing AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92. DG XI is responsible for the environment.

Box 4: Responsibilities of Directorates-General

DG I	External Economic Relations
DG IA	External Political Relations
DG II	Economic and Financial Affairs
DG III	Industry
DG IV	Competition
DG V	Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs
DG VI	Agriculture Veterinary and Phytosanitary Office
DG VII	Transport
DG VIII	Development
DG IX	Personnel and Administration
DG X	Audiovisual Media, Information, Communication and Culture
DG XI	Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection
DG XII	Science, Research and Development Joint Research Centre
DG XIII	Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research
DG XIV	Fisheries
DG XV	Internal Market and Financial Services
DG XVI	Regional Policies
DG XVII	Energy
DG XVIII	Credit and Investments
DG XIX	Budgets
DG XX	Financial Control
DG XXI	Customs and Indirect Taxation
DG XXIII	Enterprise Policy, Distributive Trades, Tourism and Co-operatives

direct payments Subsidies paid directly to individual farmers, rather than to third parties as in the case of market support. Also known as direct income payments. Usually related to production levels or other conditions, eg SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM is a direct payment which is related to the number of eligible ewes on a farm. DECOUPLED PAYMENTS are a form of direct payment which is unrelated to agricultural production.

direct drilling Planting of a crop with minimum cultivation, may be drilled directly in a GREEN COVER.

Disadvantaged Areas See LESS FAVOURED AREAS.

early retirement Regulation 2079/92 One of the three ACCOMPANYING MEASURES introduced in the MACSHARRY REFORMS of the CAP. Member States may obtain EU co-funding for schemes to promote the early retirement of farmers. Not taken up in the UK.

ECJ See EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE.

eco-audit An innovative method for reviewing the environmental performance of a business to enable production of an environmental strategy. Concept now being applied to agriculture at the farm level, promoted in the UK by the organisation Linking the Environment and Farming (LEAF).

ecological network A system of protected habitats and ecosystems with appropriate linkages between important sites which permit the dispersal and migration of species, either through linear routes or a series of "stepping stones".

Economic and Social Committee (ESC) An influential body set up under the Treaty of Rome to advise the Council of the EC and the European Commission on specific issues such as agriculture, environment, labour movement, transportation, approximation of laws, social policy, the EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUND, health and safety, investment and research. Its members are nominated by national governments on the basis of their personal experience. The ESC votes on, amends and adopts opinions which are passed to the Council and the Commission.

ecopoint (Aus, FRG) A points system incorporated into two agri-environment schemes, one in Germany (MEKA) and one in Austria. Farmers are given points for environmental achievements which are then transposed into monetary amounts.

eco-responsibility See CROSS-COMPLIANCE.

ECU See EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT.

EEA See EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY.

EECONET See EUROPEAN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK.

eligible ewe To be eligible for SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM ewes must have lambed or be 12 months old on the last day of the RETENTION PERIOD.

English Nature (EN) See NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCIES.

environmental conditionality See CROSS-COMPLIANCE.

Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) UK government term for the range of voluntary incentive schemes available to farmers to encourage the sensitive management of the natural environment. MAFF currently considering possible simplification of the numerous schemes currently available with advice from the NATIONAL AGRI-ENVIRONMENT STEERING GROUP and the NATIONAL FORUM.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) Originally designated in the UK under Article 19 of EC Regulation 797/85 (subsequently superseded by Article 21 of EC Regulation 2328/91 and

amendments) which authorised Member States to introduce special national schemes in environmentally sensitive areas. Implemented in the UK by the Agriculture Act 1986 and first round of ESAs launched in 1987. They are areas of high landscape and conservation value in which farmers may voluntarily enter into agreements for 10 years to manage the land according to specific prescriptions in return for certain annual and capital incentive payments. Payments are tiered according to the level of management required. Implemented in all areas of the UK with some regional differences, eg in Scotland the rates are more complex and are closely linked to individual farm situations. Capital grants may also be available. Now part of the UK package of measures implemented under AGRICULTURE (ENVIRONMENT) REGULATIONS 2078/92. There are 22 ESAs in England, 10 in Scotland, six in Wales and three in Northern Ireland as at 1996.

◆ **ESA Access Scheme** an additional voluntary option added in 1995 which provides annual payments to farmers for providing 10 metre wide access strips and other facilities.

Environment Council See COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) Often referred to by its French acronym, *FEOGA*, accounts for over 50 per cent of the Community budget and composed of two sections. The Guarantee Section finances Community public expenditure resulting from the policy on markets and prices; funds intervention designed to stabilise the markets and refunds paid on exports to non-member countries enabling disposal of agricultural products on world markets. Also provides funds for the monetary compensatory amounts. The Guidance Section is concerned with improving the structure of European agriculture and associated marketing and processing industries and is now formally one of the Union's three STRUCTURAL FUNDS. The distribution of these funds is regulated by a set of policies covering specific topics such as: compensation payments for farmers in LESS FAVOURED AREAS; aid for younger farmers seeking to become established on their own holdings; investment aid for measures such as improved buildings, new facilities for handling farm wastes, land improvement, etc; investment aid for storage and processing facilities, marketing initiatives by farm co-ops, etc; and rural development projects of different kinds.

European Commission Central executive body in the EU and presided over by 20 Commissioners appointed by agreement between Member States governments. Each Member State must be represented by at least one national but no state may have more than two representatives on the Commission. Each commissioner is assigned responsibility for one or more areas of Community policy and serves for terms of five years from 1995 onwards. The Commissioners are supported administratively by a DIRECTORATE GENERAL (DG) of which there are 23 concerned with specific policy areas. DGVI and DGXI are responsible for agriculture and rural development and environment respectively. The European Commission is responsible for proposing primary legislation, handling the day-to-day administration of Community laws and policies resulting from the primary legislation (and may adopt secondary legislation to do so) and represents the EU in some international negotiations including the GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.

European Community (EC) Originally known as the EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, a legal entity created by the TREATY OF ROME along with two others; the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). The term European Economic Community was amended to European Community by the MAASTRICHT TREATY and became part of the EUROPEAN UNION. In structure the EC order resembles the constitutional order of a State and functions to establish a common market that unites the national markets of the Member States. Certain policy areas, including agriculture, transport and the environment, are pursued by legislation adopted by the EC under the Treaty of Rome and are therefore called EC policies. However, since the EC is now part of the EU it is also correct to refer to them as EU policies. Although the three communities, EC, ECSC and Euratom remain separate entities, the term European Community is often used incorrectly to refer to all three.

European Council Composed of the Heads of State or Government. The President of the Commission as well as Foreign Ministers attend. Functions to establish policy guidelines for European integration by making basic policy decisions and to co-ordinate Member States' foreign policy. Meets twice a year.

European Court of Auditors Set up in 1975 to externally audit the EC's general budget. Publishes an annual report and a number of Special Reports throughout the year on particular aspects of Community spending. The Commission is obliged to respond in writing to the Court's findings.

European Court of Justice (ECJ) Consists of 15 independent judges appointed jointly by the Member States. It decides whether Community law has been correctly applied. Community legislation always takes precedence over national laws in those areas where the Community has competence.

European Currency Units (ECU) The present ECU was created in 1979 together with the European monetary system. Its value is equal to the total of specific sums of the currency of each Member State, thus it is a "basket" type of unit. The currencies are not represented equally, there is a weighting in favour of currencies from the more economically important Member States; the Deutsch Mark is the single largest component. The ECU has proved more stable than the £. In January 1996, 1 ECU was worth approximately £0.82. It is the unit of account used for expressing price levels and other purposes within the CAP. See GREEN RATE.

European Ecological Network (EECONET) An initiative which aims to transpose the concept of an ECOLOGICAL NETWORK to the European scale. This involves identifying species, habitats and ecosystems of European importance and designing coherent measures to conserve the integrity of natural systems. There is an emphasis on connectivity. Elements in the network may include core areas, corridors, stepping stones, restoration areas and buffer zones. The creation of a Pan European Ecological Network within 10 years is one of the objectives of the PAN EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY agreed in 1995.

European Economic Community (EEC) Now renamed the EUROPEAN COMMUNITY and part of the EUROPEAN UNION.

European Environment Agency (EEA) Set up in May 1990 by Council Regulation 1210/90 and established in Copenhagen in 1993. Aims to develop a European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) to provide objective, reliable, comparable and usable information about the environment in Europe. Initial tasks for the EEA include provision to the EU and Member States of information for framing and implementing environment policies. Has appointed "topic centres", including one for nature conservation, the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle* in Paris.

European Parliament Composed of 626 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who are directly elected every five years by the citizens of the 15 Member States. It gives its opinion on legislative proposals after the details have been examined in one of the Parliament's 18 committees.

European Union Formally created by the MAASTRICHT TREATY and supported by three pillars, including the European Community, Common Foreign and Security Policy, and Home Affairs and Justice Policy.

Extensification Premium See BEEF EXTENSIFICATION PREMIUM

Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme In UK, a nationally applicable scheme providing grants to farmers for capital works which have an environmental value such as restoring traditional field boundaries, establishing shelter belts and managing heather. Run by the territorial agricultural departments in England and Wales only. It is subsumed within COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME from 1995.

farm waste In UK, organic matter such as manure, slurry, silage effluent and crop residues falls outside the scope of the legal definition of waste and is not subject to the controls in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and other waste legislation but is subject to legislation for the prevention of WATER POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE. Other "real" farm waste, such as agrochemicals, plastic and other organic and non-organic items are also currently exempt from the UK waste legislation. However, in line with the requirements of the EC waste framework Directive 442/75 (OJ L194, 25.7.75) and amendments, the government is to propose legislation to extend the definition of controlled waste to all agricultural waste, other than animal carcasses and natural, non-dangerous waste used in agriculture.

Farm Woodland Premium Scheme In UK, provides annual payments to farmers to plant and maintain woodlands on farms. Introduced in 1992 as a replacement to the Farm Woodland Scheme and run by the territorial agricultural departments. Provides per hectare payments to convert arable land and improved grassland (and unimproved grassland in LFA) into woodland. Farmers must have an approved WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME project before they are eligible to join. Scheme now implemented under the EC FORESTRY REGULATION 2080/92.

FEOGA See EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUIDANCE AND GUARANTEE FUND.

field margin The uncropped area around a field which may include the field boundary, hedge bank or ditch, a sown or naturally regenerated wildflower or grass margin, or a sterile strip.

fifth environmental action programme Latest of a series of EC ACTION PROGRAMMES ON THE ENVIRONMENT, entitled "Towards Sustainability". It stresses the need for the integration of environmental protection into key sectors and the importance of using a range of policy instruments broader than the traditional legislative "command and control" approach. It refers to a tentative target of protecting 10 % of the EU land area with management agreements and is due for review in 1996.

First Stop Shop UK term for a means of co-ordinating diverse sources of advice and grant support whereby a single, local, nominated lead agency acts as the principal contact for farmers and landowners seeking advice and information on incentive schemes and grants. The First Stop Shop would act as a 'broker' and would direct enquirers to the appropriate specialist agency where necessary (cf ONE STOP SHOP). The Welsh COUNTRYSIDE AND AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SERVICE is one such initiative.

fixed costs Overhead expenses such as labour and machinery on a holding which do not vary in proportion to small changes in the scale of the enterprise, unlike VARIABLE COSTS.

Fontainebleau Agreement Introduced a mechanism to limit the UK's total net contribution to the EC budget by means of a complex formula providing an annual rebate to the UK, calculated on the basis of the difference between the UK's VAT contribution and allocated EC expenditure. Has the effect that the net value to the British budget of EC co-funding for UK national schemes is reduced, consequently giving the UK Treasury reason to resist increased spending on such schemes.

forage area Area of a holding available throughout the year for feeding or grazing livestock. Excludes: buildings; paths; ponds; woods; areas used for crops receiving support (including under the ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME); areas used for permanent or horticultural crops; set-aside. Used in calculation of STOCKING DENSITY LIMIT.

forestry Regulation 2080/92 One of the three ACCOMPANYING MEASURES introduced in the MACSHARRY REFORM of the CAP and known formally as "a Community aid scheme for forestry measures in agriculture" (OJ L215, 30.7.92). Mandatory for Member States, it lays down a number of rules for national forestry incentive schemes, thereby extending the scope of some existing EC measures and increasing the level of incentive payments which are eligible for EC reimbursement. In the UK, the existing WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME and FARM WOODLAND SCHEME qualify under the Regulation.

friche (F) Fallow land.

GATT See GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.

gel des terres (F) Set-aside of farmland.

general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) A multilateral agreement initiated in 1948 between trading nations. It promotes global trade liberalisation by acting as a forum for international trade negotiations, of which there have been eight rounds, the most important being the Uruguay Round completed in December 1993 during which agreements on virtually every sector of world trade were concluded, including agriculture for the first time. The resulting trading rules are applied by contracting parties and are supervised by the WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION. This GATT round covers the period 1995 to 2000. See GREEN BOX and BLUE BOX.

general scheme See MAIN SCHEME.

green box Under the GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, nations are allowed to continue certain types of support for the agricultural sector, in the form of direct payments, which are considered not to distort trade. These include DECOUPLED PAYMENTS, income insurance and safety net programmes, crop insurance programmes, farmer early retirement schemes, investment aids, environmental programmes and regional assistance programmes. In all cases the payments must not relate to production levels or exceed any loss of income incurred by the farmer. Aids which are given in the framework of a production limitation programme fall into a special category, so called BLUE BOX, which includes the CAP compensation payments (set-aside payments, livestock premia etc). They are exempt from cuts at least until 2000 and protected from legal challenge until 2003 as long as the amount of support given does not exceed that agreed in 1992.

green cover A crop which occupies ground which would otherwise remain fallow. Purpose may vary. Must be established on land set-aside in the UK under the ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME in order to minimise the leaching of nutrients from the soil. May be created through natural regeneration, sowing grass, sowing a WILD BIRD COVER, sowing another acceptable cover or by leaving the existing cover. In exceptional cases, soil may be left bare. Prior to planting a commercial crop, the green cover is ploughed into the soil.

green rate Refers to "green" ie agricultural exchange rate system necessary because CAP prices, direct payments etc are specified in ECU and need to be converted into national currencies which vary in value. Thus the green, or agrimonetary, system is a means of stabilising the rates of exchange between the national currencies of the Member States and the "green" ECU. When a currency is revalued on the international market, its value is maintained against the ECU for a period at the former green rate and gradually adapted to the new official rate. Monetary