COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2018/701

of 8 May 2018

derogating from Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 as regards the final date of submission of the single application, aid applications or payment claims, the final date for notification of amendments to the single application or payment claim and the final date for applications for allocation of payment entitlements or the increase of the value of payment entitlements under the basic payment scheme for the year 2018

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 ([1]), and in particular point (b) of the first paragraph and the second paragraph of Article 78 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 ([2]) provides for the final date of submission of the single application, aid applications or payment claims, for the final date for notification of amendments to the single application or payment claim and for the final date for submission of applications for allocation of payment entitlements or the increase of the value of payment entitlements under the basic payment scheme.

(2) Member States are implementing changes to their administrative system for direct payments resulting from the amendments made by Regulation (EU) 2017/2393 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([3]), involving inter alia a reorganisation of the information technology systems, changes to procedures and awareness-raising activities towards beneficiaries to inform them of the new legal requirements. In addition, some Member States experience delays in the implementation of the geo-spatial aid application. As a result, exceptional administrative difficulties have been encountered in Member States.

(3) That situation has affected the possibility of beneficiaries to submit the single application, aid applications or payment claims and applications for allocation of payment entitlements or the increase of the value of payment entitlements under the basic payment scheme within the time limits provided for in Articles 13(1) and 22(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014.

(4) In view of that situation, it is appropriate to provide for a derogation from Articles 13(1) and 22(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 which enables Member States to fix for the year 2018 a final date of submission of the single application, aid applications or payment claims and a final date for submission of applications for allocation of payment entitlements or the increase of the value of payments entitlements under the basic payment scheme that are later than those provided for in those Articles. Since the dates and periods referred to in Articles 11(4), 15(2) and (2a) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 are linked to the final date provided for in Article 13(1) of that Regulation, a similar derogation should be provided for the notification of the results of preliminary checks and of amendments to the single application or payment claim.

(5) Since those derogations should cover the single application, aid applications and payment claims, amendments to the single application or payment claim and applications for allocation of payment entitlements for the year 2018, it is appropriate that this Regulation applies to applications and payment claims relating to the year 2018.

(6) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for Direct Payments and the Committee for Rural Development,

([1]) OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549.

([2]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 of 17 July 2014 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the integrated administration and control system, rural development measures and cross compliance (OJ L 227, 31.7.2014, p. 69).

([3]) Regulation (EU) 2017/2393 of the European Parliament and od the Council of 13 December 2017 amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), (EU) No 1306/2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy, (EU) No 1307/2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy, (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and (EU) No 652/2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material (OJ L 350, 29.12.2017, p. 15).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 13(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014, for the year 2018, the final dates to be fixed by Member States by which the single application, aid applications or payment claims have to be submitted shall not be later than 15 June.

Article 2

By way of derogation from Article 15(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014, for the year 2018, in Member States using the derogation provided for in Article 1 of this Regulation the amendments made to the single application or payment claim in accordance with Article 15(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 shall be notified to the competent authority by 15 June.

Article 3

The derogations provided for in Articles 1 and 2 shall also apply in the Member States concerned for the purpose of calculating the periods of 26, 35 and 10 calendar days, respectively, after the final date of submission of the single application, aid application or payment claims and the final date for notification of amendments as referred to in Articles 11(4) and 15(2a) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014.

Article 4

By way of derogation from Article 22(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014, for the year 2018, the date to be fixed by Member States for the submission of applications for allocation of payment entitlements or the increase of the value of payment entitlements under the basic payment scheme shall not be later than 15 June.

Article 5

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply to applications and payment claims relating to the year 2018.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 May 2018.

For the Commission
The President
Jean-Claude JUNCKER