

Registration of FARM ADVISORY SERVICE

Guidelines for the submission of Applications

1. INTRODUCTION

The setting up of farm advisory services entities is instrumental to help farmers to adapt, improve and facilitate management and to improve the overall performance of their holdings by enhancing the human potential operating in the agricultural sector. The purpose of these guidelines are to give an indication of what the Farm Advisory Service should constitute with regards both technical resources and human framework. These guidelines are relevant to Farm Advisory Services that serve to assist both farmers and/or livestock breeders in providing professional advice in line with Regulation EC 1306/2013

2. LEGAL BASIS

L.N. 99 of 2019 gives the legal basis for the setting up of Farm Advisory Service.

3. AIM OF THE FARM ADVISORY SERVICE

Advisory services shall aim to help farmers and livestock breeders to meet the requirements of EU and National regulation mainly with regards to:

- obligations at farm level resulting from the statutory management requirements and the standards for good agricultural and environmental land conditions (“cross-compliance”)
- agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment and maintenance of the agricultural area (“greening”)
- measures at farm level provided for in rural development programmes for farm modernisation, competitiveness building, sectorial integration, innovation and market orientation as well as for the promotion of entrepreneurship
- requirements for water protection, efficient and sustainable water use
- use of plant protection products
- integrated pest management
- the promotion of farm conversion and diversification of their economic activity

- risk management and appropriate preventive actions to address natural disasters, catastrophic events and animal and plant diseases

- minimum requirements for agri-environment-climate payments beyond mandatory standards and minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant production products, also regarding organic farming
- information related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and protection of water

4. OBJECTIVES OF FARM ADVISORY SERVICES

The primary objective of the Farm Advisory Service is to provide advisory services to farmers and livestock breeders for the improvement of the overall performance of their holding. In order for a Farm Advisory Service Entity to be recognised by the Farm Advisory Service Registration Board (FASRB), must demonstrate its capability to provide advice on the minimum advisory services that pertain to the following areas of competences according to the category of advisory area chosen by the FAS itself:

- **Advisory Area A - Cross Compliance:**

Advice on Obligations at farm level resulting from the statutory management requirements (SMR) and the standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land (GAEC). Note (1): Advisory Area A Cross Compliance is to be categorised in the relevant ‘sub-areas’ as presented in Annex II of the (EC) Regulation.

Important note: For each sub-area the farm advisory services application must indicate wherever necessary approval of any technical advisors has been obtained from the relevant competent authorities under the relevant statutory management requirements (SMRs) and standards for good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC).

- **Advisory Area B - Agri-Environment Climate Measures (AECMs):**

Advice on agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment as laid down in Chapter 3 of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 concerning ‘Payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment’.

- **Advisory Area C - Rural Development Programmes:**

Advisory Area C is relevant for Measures at farm level provided for in rural development programmes for farm modernisation, competitiveness building, sectoral integration, innovation and market orientation, as well as for the promotion of entrepreneurship.

- **Advisory Area D - Advisory Measures on Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy:**

Providers of farm advisory services must refer at Farm level the basic measures for the minimum requirements to be complied with at EU and national level and shall consist of:

- (a) measures required to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 of the Directive and in part A of Annex VI of the Directive;
- (b) measures deemed appropriate for the purposes of Article 9 of the Directive;
- (c) measures to promote an efficient and sustainable water use in order to avoid compromising the achievement of the objectives specified in Article 4 of the Directive;
- (d) measures to meet the requirements of Article 7 of the Directive, including measures to safeguard water quality in order to reduce the level of purification treatment required for the production of drinking water;
- (e) controls over the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater, and impoundment of fresh surface water, including a register or registers of water abstractions and a requirement of prior authorisation for abstraction and impoundment. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated. Member States can exempt from these controls, abstractions or impoundments which have no significant impact on water status;
- (f) controls, including a requirement for prior authorisation of artificial recharge or augmentation of groundwater bodies. The water used may be derived from any surface water or groundwater, provided that the use of the source does not compromise the achievement of the environmental objectives established for the source or the recharged or augmented body of groundwater. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;
- (g) for point source discharges liable to cause pollution, a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, or for prior authorisation, or registration based on general binding rules, laying down emission controls for the pollutants concerned, including controls in accordance with Articles 10 and 16 of the Directive. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;
- (h) for diffuse sources liable to cause pollution, measures to prevent or control the input of pollutants. Controls may take the form of a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, prior authorisation or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided for under Community legislation. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;
- (i) for any other significant adverse impacts on the status of water identified under Article 5 and Annex II, in particular measures to ensure that the hydromorphological conditions of the bodies of water are consistent with the achievement of the required ecological status or good ecological potential for bodies of water designated as artificial or heavily modified. Controls for this purpose may take the form of a requirement for prior authorization or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided for under Community legislation. Such controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;
- (j) a prohibition of direct discharges of pollutants into groundwater subject to the following provisions: Member States may authorise re-injection into the same aquifer of water used for geothermal purposes. They may also authorise, specifying the conditions for:
 - injection of water containing substances resulting from the operations for exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons or mining activities, and injection of water

for technical reasons, into geological formations from which hydrocarbons or other substances have been extracted or into geological formations which for natural reasons are permanently unsuitable for other purposes. Such injections shall not contain substances other than those resulting from the above operations,

- re-injection of pumped groundwater from mines and quarries or associated with the construction or maintenance of civil engineering works,
- injection of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for storage purposes into geological formations which for natural reasons are permanently unsuitable for other purposes,
- injection of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for storage purposes into other geological formations where there is an overriding need for security of gas supply, and where the injection is such as to prevent any present or future danger of deterioration in the quality of any receiving groundwater,
- construction, civil engineering and building works and similar activities on, or in the ground which come into contact with groundwater. For these purposes, Member States may determine that such activities are to be treated as having been authorised provided that they are conducted in accordance with general binding rules developed by the Member State in respect of such activities,
- discharges of small quantities of substances for scientific purposes for characterisation, protection or remediation of water bodies limited to the amount strictly necessary for the purposes concerned:

Provided such discharges do not compromise the achievement of the environmental objectives established for that body of groundwater;

- (k) in accordance with action taken pursuant to Article 16 of the Directive, measures to eliminate pollution of surface waters by those substances specified in the list of priority substances agreed pursuant to Article 16(2) of the Directive and to progressively reduce pollution by other substances which would otherwise prevent Member States from achieving the objectives for the bodies of surface waters as set out in Article 4 of the Directive;
- (l) any measures required to prevent significant losses of pollutants from technical installations, and to prevent and or to reduce the impact of accidental pollution incidents for example as a result of floods, including through systems to detect or give warning of such events including, in the case of accidents which could not reasonably have been foreseen, all appropriate measures to reduce the risk to aquatic ecosystems.

- **Advisory Area E - Use of Plant Protection Products:**

Under this area, advisory service should concern farm level requirements at the level of beneficiaries as defined by Member States for implementing Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, in particular the requirements referred to in Article 14 of Directive 2009/128/EC. These provisions incorporate the need for Plant protection products that must be used properly, whereby proper use shall include the application of the principles of good plant protection practice and compliance with the conditions established in accordance with Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and specified on the labelling. It shall also comply with the provisions of Directive 2009/128/EC and, in particular, with general principles of integrated pest management, as referred to in Article 14 of and Annex III to that Directive.

- **Advisory Area F - Measures for use of Integrated Pest Management:**

In line with Article 14 of Directive 2009/128/EC reference is to be made to the relevant competent authority so that farm advisory services will be in line with the established measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management, giving wherever possible priority to non chemical methods, so that professional users of pesticides switch to practices and products with the lowest risk to human health and the environment among those available for the same pest problem. Low pesticide-input pest management includes integrated pest management as well as organic farming according to Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products.

- Able to aid in the compilation of application forms for the purposes of subsidies in relation to the CAP
- The FAS must be prepared to undertake to organise training courses both for its staff and for its clients according to the category area the FAS is registered for.

5 CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION

5.1 Compilation of Application Form

The entity wishing to Register for recognition as a Farm Advisory Service Provider must compile the Application Form as per Annex I, completing and providing all relevant documentation as requested.

5.1.1 Compilation of Section 1: Particulars of Applicant

(a) To insert the Name and Surname of the Farm Advisory Service requesting recognition

(b) This part is for office use only, each Farm Advisory Service requesting recognition will be given a unique reference number

(c) To insert the date of application

(d) To insert the Name and Surname of the Farm Advisory Service Provider Representative

(e) To insert the contact details of the Farm Advisory Service Provider Representative.

5.1.2 Compilation of Section 2: Particulars of Experts and Advisor or Advisors

(a) Part A is to insert Areas and sub-Areas of which the Farm Advisory Service Provider is requesting recognition for, as per schedule 1 of regulation (L.N. 99 of 2019 (CAP 117)).

(b) Part B is to insert details of Personnel giving also a brief description of their role in the Entity in line with the Advisory Area/Sub Area.

5.1.3 Compilation of Section 3: Supporting Documentation – supporting documentation required with regard to the application

(a) A copy of the Identity Card of the person representing the enterprise

(b) A recent Memorandum of Association

(c) Curriculum Vitae together with a transcript of the credits of the technical advisors

- (d) A copy of the VAT certificate
- (e) The Farm Advisory Service Provider needs to pay an administrative fee of €50.

5.1.4 Compilation of Section 4: Additional Documentation

- (a) The Farm Advisory Service Provider needs to submit a declaration of conformity with all applicable legislation provisions
- (b) The Farm Advisory Service Provider must submit a proof of technical and professional competence to provide advisory services in at least one advisory area or sub-area (as set out in Schedule 1 of the regulation)
- (c) This part the Farm Advisory Service Provider must indicate the human resource, administrative and organisational capacity, which is already indicated in Section 2 Part B, therefore if Section 2 Part B was filled in, the Service Provider may tick this item.
- (d) The Service Provider must present a business plan together with application for the approval of the competent authority.
- (e) Declaration of Conformity and Commitment Form (Annex I) must be filled and submitted with application indicating commitment in accordance with regulation.
- (f) The Service Provider must present an authorisation or license from the relevant competent authority/authorities for the provision of such technical services.
- (g) The Service Provider must submit a clean police conduct certificate for all individuals referred to in Parts A and B of Section 2, issued in the previous six (6) months.
- (h) A detailed *Curriculum Vitae* reflecting parts A and B in Section 2 of advisors acting for the farm advisory service provider together with any additional proof of competency to perform the advisory services in the relevant advisory area or sub-area.
- (i) Farm Advisory Services Provider must submit a training plan.
- (j) A copy of contract of service for third party expert advisors must be presented only in applicable.
- (k) A Statement of Absence of Conflict of Interest Form (Annex II) must be filled by the service provider to declare absence of conflict of interest
- (l) The Service Provider must submit the proof of payment for the administrative fee together with application, as set out in Schedule II (L.N. 99 of 2019 - CAP. 117)

5.1.5 Section 5: Disclaimer

In this Section the recognized Farm Advisory Service Provider must ensure that their advisors are trained regularly, therefore must read well points (a) to (f) in the application and ensure to abide with such conditions.

5.2 Structure of FAS - Segregation of competences

The basic make up of FAS should include 3 levels of professional fields:

- Level (3) Field inspector: must be knowledgeable of the details according to the category of advisory area applied for and to identify what is compliant and what is not.
- Level (2) Professional personnel who are responsible to advise/suggest remedial action so as to bring farmer's holding compliant.

- Level (1) One official from level 2 or any other qualified person may be chosen to represent the FAS as the coordinator.

The basic structure of the Farm Advisory service must constitute the following:

Level 1

Coordinator (In possession of a Degree and two (2) years experience in EU Agricultural related area)

Level 2

Officers in level 2 must be in possession of a Degree related to the areas of expertise in the Category of Advisory area applied for.

Level 3

Field inspectors

The number of field workers required depends on the extent of the activities of the entity, however the field worker must be in possession of at least a recognised Diploma in level 5 which would reflect the fields of study covered (eg: livestock only or land and livestock related)

In levels 2 and 3 of the organisational structure officials must attend the mandatory preparation course within one year from engagement with the entity.

5.3 Facilities & Resources required for operation of FAS:

- ICT hardware and software
- On-site (field and farm) instruments for analysis, monitoring, etc.
- Office ware
- Reference materials including library, archive, and catalogue materials
- Budget plan related to continuous professional development of short courses not leading to the achievement of a formal qualification.
- Training plan pertaining to members of the FAS entity.
- Training plan pertaining to the FAS clients

6. REGISTRATION

To provide a service the Farm Advisory Service entity must first submit an application for registration to the competent authority which is the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency following a notice to be published in the Government Gazette.

- A declaration of conformity with all applicable legislation provisions is to be submitted with the application. (Annex I)

- The entity must also submit a training plan covering training of its own advisors and that of its clients
- A copy of contract of service for third party expert advisors if any.
- A clean police conduct certificate for all individuals issued in the previous six (6) months.
- A detailed advisory service's business plan.
- A declaration of Commitment in accordance with regulation (Annex I)
- A curriculum vitae together with a transcript of the credits of the core experts is to be submitted with the application for every expert as evidence of their qualification.
- Authorisation or license from the relevant competent authority for the provision of such technical services
- The entity must also submit a declaration indicating that there is no conflict of interest with their clients. The entity is bound to ensure that the advisory officials who provide advice to the entities clients do not have the same evaluating status as its clients. (Annex II)
- Farm Advisory entities are to take full responsibility of all the information provided and services rendered to their clients by their personnel, and must provide a signed declaration to this effect when submitting the relevant registration documentation.
- The entity must pay an administrative fee of €50 when presenting the application.
- The application is assessed by the Farm Advisory Service Registration Board (FASRB) who will decide whether the entity has sufficient resources and expertise to provide advise to farmers and the agro-industry.
- The Farm Advisory Service Registration Board (FASRB) will assess the applications for registration and shall prepare a list of all entities that, in the opinion of the Board, meet the requirements for registration recommends registration to the Paying Agency.
- The Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency includes the approved entities in the register and issues a certificate which is valid for one year.
- The board also provide reasons for its decision. The decisions of the Board to accept or to refuse an application for registration in the Register shall be notified in writing by the registrar to the applicant within 30 days from the decision.
- Applicants who do not agree with the outcome of the registration process will have the right to appeal from such decision.
- The Board holds the right to cancel any certificate granted under the provisions stated in L.N 99 of 2019.

SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR REGISTRATION FOR FARM ADVISORY SERVICES

The following shall apply for registration of Farm Advisory Entities:

DESCRIPTION OF FEE	Euro
Administrative Fee (Application)	50

7 OBLIGATIONS OF FAS ENTITIES

- Registered farm advisory entities are obliged to follow advice and recommendations given by the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable development and Climate Change (MESDC), moreover FAS entities must ensure that correlated work is not re-diverted to, or requested from the MESDC or any other government authority.
- Farm advisory entities shall undertake to comply with or accept any changes to the commitments, undertaken in accordance with these regulations that may be necessary as a result of European Union or national legislation.
- They shall provide the services listed in the Category of Advisory area applied for (Schedule I of LN or Annex III of Guidelines) and shall take full responsibility of all information provided and services rendered to their clients by their personnel
- Farm advisory services shall ensure that its experts shall attend a specialized training course approved by the Ministry responsible for agriculture covering the obligations of the Category of Advisory area applied for.
- Client data, records or status changes shall be reported to the Board within ten working days.
- The FAS entity must not disclose personal or individual information that would have been obtained through their advisory activity other than the farmer managing the holding concerned, except in cases of irregularities or infringements found during their activity that is covered by a legal obligation to inform a public authority.
- FAS entities are obliged to keep records about their activity and information about the services rendered to their clients. Information about the clients shall be maintained in the format indicated in Annex IV
- Entities shall undertake to allow access to members or persons authorised by the Board or the ARPA for the purpose of carrying out an inspection in order to verify the accuracy of any information provided or any declaration made to ensure compliance with these regulations.
- The Farm Advisory Services shall submit a status report on the Farm Advisory service to be assessed by the Board by not later than 31st December of each year. This status report must be completed as specified in Annex V of these guidelines.

- Any FAS entity, that for the purpose of obtaining the certificate for registration in the Register, provide any wrong information or otherwise acts in a deceitful or fraudulent manner, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand and three hundred and thirty Euros (€2,330).

8 STATUS REPORTS – CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF APPLICATION.

All activities carried out by the FAS as stated in point 4 of these guidelines should be included in the Status Report and shall be applicable to tangible and intangible investments carried out by such entities, in order to strengthen their institutional capacity as well as bring them to compliance in accordance to the various directives and regulations.

These actions must be transposed in the status report and should provide a clear reference of services rendered to its clients.

The FAS status report as indicated in Annex V must be submitted by not later than the 31st December of each year to the Board with a yearly status report on the farm advisory services activities carried out, including activities carried out by any outsourced experts, in the preceding twelve (12) months.

9 COMPLIANCE AND VERIFICATION OF SERVICE

The FASRB may at any time ask the ARPA to conduct checks on the registered FAS entity. The ARPA in turn shall select a sample of farmers making use of Farm Advisory Services from the information submitted in their status report, so as to verify that advice provided by the FAS entity was correctly delivered and actions followed up.

The ARPA should report the findings of the checks to the FASRB together with a request for the re-evaluation of the registration if necessary. Should the ARPA discover that the FAS had delivered wrong information or advice to its client, it should notify immediately the farmers concerned and issue a warning to the FAS entity. The FAS entity is obliged to take immediate corrective action and reimburse any costs claimed. If the action is repeated the ARPA may request the FASRB to re-evaluate the registration status of the entity which could evoke the withdrawal of the certificate of registration.

Any legal or natural person whether public or private who, for the purpose of obtaining the certificate of recognition, gives any wrong information or otherwise acts in a deceitful or fraudulent manner, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand and three hundred and thirty Euros (€2,330). This is without prejudice to any other remedy that may be sought under law.

Annex I

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY AND COMMITMENT

Date:

I, (insert full name and surname of FAS provider representative), the undersigned, representative of (insert name of FAS), hereby declare conformity and commitment in relation to the Articles of L.N. 99 of 2019 (Farm Advisory Services Regulations 2019).

Signature: _____

Name and Surname: _____

Position held in the FAS: _____

Annex II

Insert Logo, address and details of FAS provider

STATEMENT OF ABSENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Date:

I, the undersigned, **being the authorised signatory** for the above-mentioned company/consortium, hereby solemnly declare that we are not and shall not be in any situation which could give rise to a conflict of interest in what concerns the performance and/or implementation of the services being offered.

I hereby also undertake to ensure that, all staff (including those of any sub-contractors) involved in the performance of services shall duly sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and confidentiality.

Signature: _____

Name and Surname: _____

Position held in the FAS: _____

ANNEX III: Category of Advisory Areas

Advisory Area A

Advisory Area A - Cross Compliance:

(a) Advice on Obligations at farm level resulting from the statutory management requirements (SMR) and the standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land (GAEC). Note (1): Advisory Area A Cross Compliance is to be categorised in the relevant 'sub-areas' as presented in Annex II of the Regulation.

Important note: For each subarea the farm advisory services application must indicate wherever necessary approval of any technical advisors has been obtained from the relevant competent authorities under the relevant statutory management requirements (SMRs) and standards for good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC).

Advisory Area B - Agri-Environment

Climate Measures (AECMs):

(a) Advice on agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment as laid down in Chapter 3 of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 concerning 'Payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment'.

Advisory Area C - Rural Development Programmes:

(a) Advisory Area C is relevant for Measures at farm level provided for in rural development programmes for farm modernisation, competitiveness building, sectoral integration, innovation and market orientation, as well as for the promotion of entrepreneurship.

Advisory Area D - Advisory Measures on Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy:

Providers of farm advisory services must refer at Farm level the basic measures for the minimum requirements to be complied with at EU and national level and shall consist of:

(a) measures required to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 of the Directive and in part A of Annex VI of the Directive;

(b) measures deemed appropriate for the purposes of Article 9 of the Directive;

(c) measures to promote an efficient and sustainable water use in order to avoid compromising the achievement of the objectives specified in Article 4 of the Directive;

(d) measures to meet the requirements of Article 7 of the Directive, including measures to safeguard water quality in order to reduce the level of purification treatment required for the production of drinking water;

(e) controls over the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater, and impoundment of fresh surface water, including a register or registers of water abstractions and a requirement of prior authorisation for abstraction and impoundment. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated. Member States can exempt from these controls, abstractions or impoundments which have no significant impact on water status;

(f) controls, including a requirement for prior authorisation of artificial recharge or augmentation of groundwater bodies. The water used may be derived from any surface water or groundwater, provided that the use of the source does not compromise the achievement of the environmental objectives established for the source or the recharged or augmented body of groundwater. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;

(g) for point source discharges liable to cause pollution, a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, or for prior authorisation, or

registration based on general binding rules, laying down emission controls for the pollutants concerned, including controls in accordance with Articles 10 and 16 of the Directive. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;

(h) for diffuse sources liable to cause pollution, measures to prevent or control the input of pollutants. Controls may take the form of a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, prior authorisation or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided for under Community legislation. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;

(i) for any other significant adverse impacts on the status of water identified under Article 5 and Annex II, in particular measures to ensure that the hydromorphological conditions of the bodies of water are consistent with the achievement of the required ecological status or good ecological potential for bodies of water designated as artificial or heavily modified. Controls for this purpose may take the form of a requirement for prior authorization or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided for under Community legislation. Such controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;

(j) a prohibition of direct discharges of pollutants into groundwater subject to the following provisions: Member States may authorise re-injection into the same aquifer of water used for geothermal purposes. They may also authorise, specifying the conditions for:

- injection of water containing substances resulting from the operations for exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons or mining activities, and injection of water for technical reasons, into geological formations from which hydrocarbons or other substances have been extracted or into geological formations which for natural reasons are permanently unsuitable for other purposes. Such injections shall not contain substances other than those resulting from the above operations,

- re-injection of pumped groundwater from mines and quarries or associated with the construction or maintenance of civil engineering works,

- injection of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for storage purposes into geological formations which for natural reasons are permanently unsuitable for other purposes,

- injection of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for storage purposes into other geological formations where there is an overriding need for security of gas supply, and where the injection is such as to prevent any present or future danger of deterioration in the quality of any receiving groundwater,

- construction, civil engineering and building works and similar activities on, or in the ground which come into contact with groundwater. For these purposes, Member States may determine that such activities are to be treated as having been authorised provided that they are conducted in accordance with general binding rules developed by the Member State in respect of such activities,

- discharges of small quantities of substances for scientific purposes for characterisation, protection or remediation of water bodies limited to the amount strictly necessary for the purposes concerned:

Provided such discharges do not compromise the achievement of the environmental objectives established for that body of groundwater;

(k) in accordance with action taken pursuant to Article 16 of the Directive, measures to eliminate pollution of surface waters by those substances specified in the list of priority substances agreed pursuant to Article 16(2) of the Directive and to progressively reduce pollution by other substances which would otherwise prevent Member States from achieving the objectives for the bodies of surface waters as set out in Article 4 of the Directive;

(l) any measures required to prevent significant losses of pollutants from technical installations, and to prevent and or to reduce the impact of accidental pollution incidents for example as a result of floods, including through systems to detect or give warning of such events including, in the case of accidents which could not reasonably have been foreseen, all appropriate measures to reduce the risk to aquatic ecosystems.

Advisory Area E - Use of Plant Protection Products:

Under this area, advisory service should concern farm level requirements at the level of beneficiaries as defined by Member States for implementing Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, in particular the requirements referred to in Article 14 of Directive 2009/128/EC. These provisions incorporate the need for Plant protection products that must be used properly, whereby proper use shall include the application of the principles of good plant protection practice and compliance with the conditions established in accordance with Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and specified on the labelling. It shall also comply with the provisions of Directive 2009/128/EC and, in particular, with general principles of integrated pest management, as referred to in Article 14 of and Annex III to that Directive.

Advisory Area F - Measures for use of Integrated Pest Management:

In line with Article 14 of Directive 2009/128/EC reference is to be made to the relevant competent authority so that farm advisory services will be in line with the established measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management, giving wherever possible priority to non chemical methods, so that professional users of pesticides switch to practices and products with the lowest risk to human health and the environment among those available for the same pest problem. Low pesticide-input pest management includes integrated pest management as well as organic farming according to Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products.

ANNEX IV: Template of Farmer Status Report

FAS letter head

Registration No

Farmer Status Report

Farmer Name & Surname:

Type of Farm Activity:

Focus Area:

Type(s) of Advisory Service:

Prepared By:

(a) Version	(b) Date (advise)	(c) Expert	(d) Advisory service type	(e) Date(of control)	(f) Action Corrected (Y or N)	(g) Charge (€)

Activities Accomplished

Activities Planned

New issues to be dealt with

Old issues still pending

Signature of co-ordinator

Date

-
- (a) The version number (consecutive number of service requested) which will reflect the advise required and action made*
 - (b) Date in which advice was given action was made*
 - (c)Expert involved/consulted*
 - (d)Advisory service 'type'*
 - (e) Date of control made by FAS to check whether corrective action was made*
 - (f) Results of corrective action implied by (e)*
 - (g) Amount charged in € by FAS*

**Section B: Improvement strategies, plans and/or purchases on behalf of the Farm
Advisory Service**

Activities Accomplished (last year)

Activities Planned (next year)

Improvement of resources

New issues to be dealt with

Old issues still pending

Section C - Training for the staff within the FAS

Training activities carried out (last year)

Training Activities Planned (next year)

Section D - Training for FAS clients

Training activities carried out (last year)

Training Activities Planned (next year)

Section E: Advice ‘types’ and Services Rendered

Summary of advice provided (last year)

- Experts involved with respect to the particular area of Cross compliance or Occupational Health and Safety
- Most prominent advisory types requested
- Controls made, and effectiveness/results of advice provided

Signature of co-ordinator

Date

-
- (a) Farmer Name & Surname*
 - (b) I.D Number*
 - (c) Advisory Type(s) - type of advice that was requested*
 - (e) Expert Providing Advice- name and surname of expert providing advice*
 - (f) Action Taken- affirmative or negative with reason if negative*
 - (g) Situation Concluded- 'Yes' or 'No' with reason if 'No'*
 - (h) Total charges € (Referring to last 6 months for the farmer in question)*