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**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND  
THE COUNCIL**

**6th FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL  
on the EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(EAFRD)  
2012 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Budget procedure .....	3
1.1.	Draft Budget (DB) 2012.....	3
1.2.	The adoption of the 2012 Budget.....	3
1.3.	The adoption of the Amending Budget.....	4
2.	Management of appropriations .....	4
2.1.	Management of Commitment appropriations .....	4
2.1.1.	EAFRD operational programmes.....	4
2.1.2.	Technical assistance .....	5
2.2.	Management of payment appropriations.....	5
2.2.1.	EAFRD operational programmes.....	5
2.2.2.	Technical assistance .....	6
3.	Implementation of the 2012 EAFRD budget .....	6
3.1.	Introduction.....	6
3.2.	Implementation of commitment appropriations.....	6
3.2.1.	EAFRD operational programmes.....	6
3.2.2.	Technical assistance .....	7
3.3.	Implementation of payment appropriations .....	8
3.3.1.	EAFRD operational programmes.....	8
3.3.2.	Technical assistance .....	12
3.4.	Analysis of expenditure declared by axis and by measure .....	12
3.5	Implementation of EAFRD programmes .....	14

# REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

## 6th FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD) 2012 FINANCIAL YEAR

### 1. BUDGET PROCEDURE

#### 1.1. Draft Budget 2012

The 2012 Draft Budget was adopted by the Commission and proposed to the Budgetary Authority on 20 April 2011.

The Draft Budget for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under heading 2 of the Financial Framework 2007-2013 totalled EUR 14 612 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 12 658 million in payment appropriations.

Table 1

Budget Item	Commitment appropriations (in €)	Payment appropriations (in €)
05.040501 (Rural dev. programmes)	14 589 123 242	12 650 000 000
05.040502 (Technical assistance)	22 521 200	7 910 000

The Council adopted its position on the 2012 Draft Budget on 25 July 2011. Payment appropriations were reduced by EUR 140 million for EAFRD programmes and by EUR 3 million for technical assistance as compared to the Commission's Draft Budget while commitments remained unchanged. The European Parliament adopted its position on 26 October 2011 whereby it restored the Commission's proposal by increasing the total amount of payment appropriations by EUR 143 million. The Conciliation procedure resulted in an agreement between the two institutions.

#### 1.2. The adoption of the 2012 Budget

The Draft Budget was approved by the Parliament in a vote on 19 November 2011. The voted budget for the EAFRD in chapter 05 04 amounted to EUR 14 612 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 12 002 million in payment appropriations.

Table 2

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Commitment appropriations</b> (in €)	<b>Payment appropriations</b> (in €)
05.040501 (Rural dev. programmes)	14 589 123 242	11 994 891 297
05.040502 (Technical assistance)	22 521 200	7 500 363

### **1.3. The adoption of the Amending Budget**

In October 2012 the Commission adopted the Draft Amending Budget No 6 to the 2012 budget due to a clearly identified lack of available payment appropriations. Therefore additional funding of EUR 1 041 million was requested for rural development programmes. The budgetary authority approved the Amending Budget No. 6 on 12 December 2012 for the total amount requested for EAFRD 2007-2013 programmes. As a result, the total amount of payment appropriations approved by the budget authority for 2012 was EUR 13 043 million.

## **2. MANAGEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS**

### **2.1. Management of Commitment appropriations**

#### *2.1.1. EAFRD operational programmes*

In 2012 the available commitment appropriations for EAFRD programmes amounted in total to EUR 14 589 million. This amount was entirely committed during the year.

Table 3

<b>Management of commitment appropriations in 2012 – EAFRD</b>	<b>Budget Item 05.040501 (amounts in €)</b>
Appropriations at the beginning of 2012	14 589 123 242
Carryover from 2011	-
Appropriations available in 2012	14 589 123 242
Appropriations used in 2012	14 589 123 242

### 2.1.2. *Technical assistance*

Article 69(2) of Council regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 stipulates that 0.25% of the resources for Community support to rural development shall be devoted to technical assistance for the Commission. In the 2012 budget, the initial amount available for this purpose was EUR 22.5 million. Of this, EUR 13 million were redeployed to other items of the budget. At the end of 2012, the total amount committed was EUR 8.4 million.

## 2.2. **Management of payment appropriations**

### 2.2.1. *EAFRD operational programmes*

In 2012 the payment appropriations of the voted budget amounted to EUR 11 995 million. In addition, EUR 30.5 million in relation to recoveries were automatically carried over from 2011 and EUR 50.2 million of assigned revenue (recoveries) were collected . The last declaration of expenditure submitted by Member States in November 2012 confirmed an additional need of EUR 1 041 million in payment appropriations . This amount was made available with the Amending Budget No.6.

The total amount paid to Member States for EAFRD programmes in 2012 reached EUR 13 117 million, thus ensuring the full consumption of the payment credits available in the year.

Table 4

<b>Management of payment appropriations in 2012 – EAFRD</b>	<b>Budget Item 05.040501 (amounts in €)</b>
Appropriations at the beginning of 2012	11 994 891 297
Carryover from 2011	30 544 548
Amending budget No. 6	1 041 000 000
Recoveries (assigned revenue)	50 156 378
Appropriations available in 2012	13 116 592 223
Appropriations used in 2012	13 116 592 223

### 2.2.2. *Technical assistance*

In the 2012 budget, the amount of payment appropriations was EUR 7.5 million. At the end of the year, the total amount of payments was EUR 5.1 million, leaving EUR 2.4 million unused. The unused funds mainly relate to the network facility of the European Innovation Partnership, which is being implemented in 2013.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 EAFRD BUDGET

### 3.1. Introduction

Financial year 2012 represented a consolidation period for all rural development programmes though there is a substantial variability as regards the implementation levels of programmes. For some of them the implementation difficulties remained apparently because of the continued impact of the economic and financial crisis. Nonetheless, it has to be noted that 2012 has shown the highest execution so far for the rural development programmes in this programming period.

### 3.2. Implementation of commitment appropriations

#### 3.2.1. *EAFRD operational programmes*

Table 5 shows the amounts committed per Member State in 2012 and the allocation established by Commission decision 2006/636/EC (modification of April 2010 still in force in 2012).

In 2012, the commitment appropriations available for EAFRD programmes, EUR 14 589 million, coincide with the annual allocation as there was no carryover from the previous year. All the available appropriations were committed (EUR 14 589 million).

Table 5

<b>Commission Decision 2006/636/EC (version in force) vs. the amounts committed end of 2012:</b>			
<b>Budget item: 05.040501</b>			<i>(in €)</i>
<b>MS</b>	<b>Commission Decision 2006/636/EC – EU funds 2012</b>	<b>Amounts carried over for commitment in 2012</b>	<b>Amounts committed in the budget year 2012</b>
	<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>	<b>(c=a+b)</b>
AT	545 968 629	-	545 968 629
BE	75 495 480	-	75 495 480
BG	397 696 922	-	397 696 922
CY	21 783 947	-	21 783 947
CZ	412 672 094	-	412 672 094
DE	1 398 361 509	-	1 398 361 509
DK	98 797 618	-	98 797 618
EE	108 913 401	-	108 913 401
ES	1 255 978 191	-	1 255 978 191
FI	294 408 238	-	294 408 238
FR	1 223 917 557	-	1 223 917 557
GR	669 030 398	-	669 030 398
HU	563 304 619	-	563 304 619
IE	352 271 063	-	352 271 063
IT	1 422 949 382	-	1 422 949 382
LT	250 278 098	-	250 278 098
LU	13 281 368	-	13 281 368
LV	150 188 774	-	150 188 774
MT	10 459 190	-	10 459 190
NL	96 082 449	-	96 082 449
PL	1 857 244 519	-	1 857 244 519
PT	586 692 105	-	586 692 105
RO	1 359 146 997	-	1 359 146 997
SE	277 860 755	-	277 860 755
SI	118 858 866	-	118 858 866
SK	275 025 447	-	275 025 447
UK	752 455 626	-	752 455 626
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 589 123 242</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14 589 123 242</b>

### 3.2.2. Technical assistance

Table 6 shows the commitment appropriations for technical assistance consumed in 2012. The most important part relates to European Network for Rural Development.

Table 6

<b>Technical assistance – Implementation of commitment appropriations</b>	
<b>Budget Item: 05.040502</b>	<i>(in €)</i>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount committed</b>
Contact point of the European Network for rural Development (ENRD)	3 653 202
Expert groups / Coordination committee / Seminars (ENRD)	733 091
Information technology	484 256
Studies, evaluations and controls	336 912
European innovation partnership (EIP)	2 500 000
Experts committee on the evaluation of rural development programmes	200 000
Publications	448 990
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 356 451</b>

### 3.3. Implementation of payment appropriations

#### 3.3.1. EAFRD operational programmes

All the payments appropriations made available in the voted and in the amending budget 2012, increased with a carryover and assigned revenue from recoveries by respectively EUR 30.5 million and EUR 50.2 million, were used. Therefore at the end of 2012, the total amount paid for EAFRD programmes was EUR 13 117 million. Payments made in 2012 increased more than 11% compared to 2011.

The table below shows the breakdown of payments made in 2012 by declaration period :

Table 7

<b>Payments 2012 – EAFRD operational programmes million €</b>	
Reimbursement of payment claims Q2 2011	0.24
Reimbursement of payment claims Q3 2011	21.27
Reimbursement of payment claims Q4 2011	4 791.64
Reimbursement of payment claims Q1 2012	2 678.68
Reimbursement of payment claims Q2 2012	2 290.40
Reimbursement of payment claims Q3 2012	3 334.37
<b>Total 2012</b>	<b>13 116.59</b>

The reimbursement of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2012 for 85 EAFRD programmes was totally or partially on hold at the end of the year mainly due to lack of available payment appropriations for 2012 (84 programmes), while in one case the outstanding commitment appropriations for the programme were already fully exhausted by the payment of previous claims. These payments had to wait until the annual

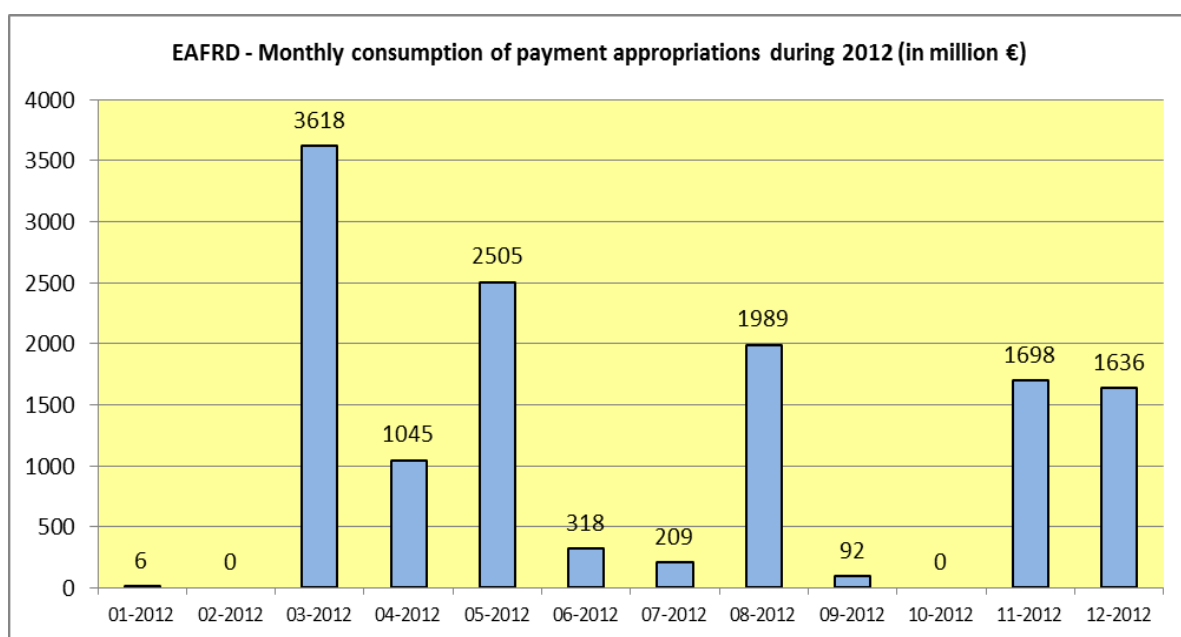


commitments for 2013 were made. The total amount of the delayed reimbursements was EUR 102 770 720.

The monthly consumption of payment appropriations during the year (January to December 2012) is represented in the graph below. The rhythm of consumption is linked to the calendar for sending the four payment declarations (31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 10 November for the payment claims corresponding respectively to Q4 2011, Q1 2012, Q2 2012 and Q3 2012) in accordance to article 16(2) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2006.

The graph shows that the usual rhythm of monthly payments was influenced by the lack of cash available to make effective payments. It imposed a delay on some reimbursements in the first part of 2012 (January to April) and at the end of the year.

Graph 1



The breakdown per Member State and per declaration period of the amounts paid by the Commission in budget year 2012 is shown in table 8. The amounts in columns Q2 2011 and Q3 2011 relate to the EAFRD programmes that exhausted their commitment appropriations for 2011 and had to wait until 2012 to have their amounts reimbursed with the 2012 commitment appropriations.

Table 8

Payments effectively made between 01/01/2012 and 31/12/2012 per declaration of expenditure							(in €)
MS	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Grand Total
AT			339 835 564	139 697 338	31 933 696	24 465 055	535 931 653
BE	238 128	14 772 928	11 497 842	12 178 694	26 270 648	3 539 841	68 498 081
BG			210 676 032	15 967 518	31 326 369	48 822 491	306 792 409
CY			5 200 274	7 073 565	4 091 052	3 492 786	19 857 677
CZ			133 105 261	171 801 664	72 562 804	41 516 606	418 986 335
DE		1 870 550	556 278 613	202 150 446	111 758 291	438 968 630	1 311 026 530
DK			21 975 476	13 263 700	11 468 475	15 933 448	62 641 099
EE			24 066 138	63 537 223	21 450 274	20 189 518	129 243 153
ES			317 102 417	176 116 735	174 349 826	153 550 836	821 119 814
FI			80 176 727	19 803 782	21 646 087	180 696 236	302 322 832
FR			380 108 903	133 274 883	95 288 904	324 499 156	933 171 846
GR			31 953 736	33 894 975	90 847 036	174 118 800	330 814 548
HU			120 237 858	155 121 913	85 933 968	80 089 047	441 382 786
IE		3 625 235	120 969 428	47 070 974	30 903 725	123 113 611	325 682 973
IT			637 934 482	175 523 320	207 667 437	286 707 609	1 307 832 848
LT			93 784 089	42 016 806	45 213 902	54 252 517	235 267 314
LU		1 000 617	3 086 330	4 951 958	779 461	544 375	10 362 740
LV			68 803 133	61 997 513	36 064 210	46 363 800	213 228 656
MT			3 334 714	1 793 606	2 072 027	1 742 217	8 942 564
NL			28 774 676	15 583 856	31 663 289	26 269 263	102 291 084
PL			534 909 344	594 250 418	465 694 607	432 184 275	2 027 038 643
PT			194 440 253	83 985 605	160 262 095	240 591 316	679 279 269
RO			461 201 200	203 648 532	214 138 413	222 931 759	1 101 919 904
SE			75 751 485	42 729 762	31 580 078	143 133 180	293 194 504
SI			37 311 422	25 154 920	43 676 243	15 923 162	122 065 747
SK			110 295 335	30 906 538	74 518 791	57 222 411	272 943 075
UK			188 825 347	205 179 330	167 239 518	173 509 942	734 754 138
<b>Total</b>	<b>238 128</b>	<b>21 269 330</b>	<b>4 791 636 079</b>	<b>2 678 675 574</b>	<b>2 290 401 225</b>	<b>3 334 371 887</b>	<b>13 116 592 223</b>

The total amount paid in 2012 EUR 13 117 million relates to reimbursements only. No advances were paid in 2012.

Table 9 on the next page compares, for each Member State, the EAFRD payments made in 2012 with the payments in 2011. The total payments increased by 11.2% (EUR 13.12 billion vs. 11.79 billion).

Table 9

Payments made to Member States - Comparison 2012 vs 2011								
(in €)								
MS	2011			2012			Difference 2012 vs. 2011	
	Interim payments	Prefinancing	Total	Interim payments	Prefinancing	Total	(in €)	(in %)
AT	560 505 171	-	560 505 171	535 931 653	-	535 931 653	-24 573 517	-4,4%
BE	74 909 464	-	74 909 464	68 498 081	-	68 498 081	-6 411 383	-8,6%
BG	123 262 579	-	123 262 579	306 792 409	-	306 792 409	183 529 830	148,9%
CY	17 962 016	-	17 962 016	19 857 677	-	19 857 677	1 895 660	10,6%
CZ	448 149 474	-	448 149 474	418 986 335	-	418 986 335	-29 163 139	-6,5%
DE	1 152 971 166	-	1 152 971 166	1 311 026 530	-	1 311 026 530	158 055 364	13,7%
DK	49 994 154	-	49 994 154	62 641 099	-	62 641 099	12 646 945	25,3%
EE	106 899 928	-	106 899 928	129 243 153	-	129 243 153	22 343 224	20,9%
ES	981 011 118	-	981 011 118	821 119 814	-	821 119 814	-159 891 304	-16,3%
FI	282 478 090	-	282 478 090	302 322 832	-	302 322 832	19 844 743	7,0%
FR	740 672 381	-	740 672 381	933 171 846	-	933 171 846	192 499 465	26,0%
GR	414 332 054	-	414 332 054	330 814 548	-	330 814 548	-83 517 506	-20,2%
HU	432 685 163	-	432 685 163	441 382 786	-	441 382 786	8 697 623	2,0%
IE	348 090 588	-	348 090 588	325 682 973	-	325 682 973	-22 407 615	-6,4%
IT	1 103 141 274	-	1 103 141 274	1 307 832 848	-	1 307 832 848	204 691 574	18,6%
LT	248 716 280	-	248 716 280	235 267 314	-	235 267 314	-13 448 966	-5,4%
LU	13 287 289	-	13 287 289	10 362 740	-	10 362 740	-2 924 549	-22,0%
LV	159 845 406	-	159 845 406	213 228 656	-	213 228 656	53 383 250	33,4%
MT	7 372 000	-	7 372 000	8 942 564	-	8 942 564	1 570 564	21,3%
NL	55 781 898	-	55 781 898	102 291 084	-	102 291 084	46 509 185	83,4%
PL	1 753 101 711	-	1 753 101 711	2 027 038 643	-	2 027 038 643	273 936 933	15,6%
PT	488 207 992	-	488 207 992	679 279 269	-	679 279 269	191 071 277	39,1%
RO	894 923 044	-	894 923 044	1 101 919 904	-	1 101 919 904	206 996 859	23,1%
SE	276 259 926	-	276 259 926	293 194 504	-	293 194 504	16 934 578	6,1%
SI	111 811 978	-	111 811 978	122 065 747	-	122 065 747	10 253 769	9,2%
SK	345 897 828	-	345 897 828	272 943 075	-	272 943 075	-72 954 753	-21,1%
UK	601 730 275	-	601 730 275	734 754 138	-	734 754 138	133 023 863	22,1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 794 000 249</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11 794 000 249</b>	<b>13 116 592 223</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13 116 592 223</b>	<b>1 322 591 975</b>	<b>11,2%</b>

### 3.3.2. Technical assistance

In the 2012 budget the amount for payment appropriations was EUR 7.5 million. The table hereafter presents the payments for technical assistance for a total amount of EUR 5.1 million. The most important part is related to European Network for Rural Development A significant part of the unused appropriations concerns the network facility of the European Innovation Partnership for which no payment could be made because the commitments were made late in the year; thus postponing the effective implementation to 2013.

Table 10

<b>Technical assistance – Implementation of payment appropriations</b>	
<b>Budget Item: 05.040502</b> <span style="float: right;">(in €)</span>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount paid</b>
Contact point of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)	3 502 642
Expert groups / Coordination committee / Seminars (ENRD)	601 045
Information technology	470 465
Experts committee on the evaluation of rural development programmes	59 298
Studies, evaluations and controls	188 300
Publications	259 964
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 081 714</b>

### 3.4. Analysis of expenditure declared by axis and by measure

Table 11 shows the payment claims declared by Member state and by axis/measure for rural development in 2012 (Q4 2011 to Q3 2012), the cumulative declared expenditure from 2007 to 2012 (Q4 2006 to Q3 2012) and also the financial plans of EAFRD programmes (2007-2013; EU27).

In 2012, the expenditure continues to be concentrated in axis 2 (45.6%), followed by axis 1 with 32.3%, axis 3 with 15.3% and axis 4 with 5.4%. This repartition of expenditure still diverges somewhat with the repartition in the financial plans for the 2007-2013 programming period (33.1%, 45.2%, 13.4% and 6.3% for axis 1 to 4 respectively).

Axis 2 measures mainly involve annual payments (e.g. agro-environmental measures) whilst Axis 1, 3 and, to a lesser extent, Axis 4 mainly relate to multi-annual measures that require longer proceedings for their approval and implementation (e.g. investment projects).

The expenditure in 2012 is more balanced among axes and the share of each axis tends to get closer to the share in the financial plans. For instance, Axis 2 decreases from 47.9% in 2011 to 45.6% in 2012 while Axis 1 and 4 increase from 31.7% and 4.3% in 2011 to 32.3% and 5.4% in 2012 respectively.

Table 11

EAFRD declared expenditure 2012 (Q4 2011-Q3 2012) & Total cumulative expenditure (Q4 2006 to Q3 2012) compared with Financial Plans*						
EAFRD Axis / Measure	Declared expenditure 2012 (Q4 2011 to Q3 2012)		Cumulative declared expenditure (Q4 2006 to Q3 2012)		Financial Plans 2007- 2013	
	(million €)	(%)	(million €)	(%)	(million €)	(%)
111 Vocational training and information actions	124,4	0,9%	261,8	0,7%	954,3	1,0%
112 Setting up of young farmers	391,8	3,0%	1312,4	3,3%	2 877,3	3,0%
113 Early retirement	330,8	2,5%	1371,7	3,5%	2 510,2	2,6%
114 Use of advisory services	24,3	0,2%	38,3	0,1%	277,5	0,3%
115 Setting up of management, relief and ....	8,5	0,1%	10,6	0,0%	64,0	0,1%
121 Modernisation of agricultural holdings	1692,9	12,8%	5040,4	12,7%	11 582,0	12,0%
122 Improvement of the economic value of forest	45,5	0,3%	121,3	0,3%	514,4	0,5%
123 Adding value to agricultural and forestry...	764,6	5,8%	1649,9	4,2%	5 622,7	5,8%
124 Cooperation for development of new products	36,2	0,3%	39,6	0,1%	325,1	0,3%
125 Infrastructure related to the development ...	557,7	4,2%	1189,3	3,0%	4 782,3	5,0%
126 Restoring agricultural production potential	86,3	0,7%	184,0	0,5%	601,4	0,6%
131 Meeting standards based on Community...	5,7	0,0%	49,9	0,1%	70,5	0,1%
132 Participation of farmers in food quality...	17,1	0,1%	31,9	0,1%	150,0	0,2%
133 Information and promotion activities	19,8	0,1%	26,9	0,1%	172,5	0,2%
141 Semi-subsistence farming	63,9	0,5%	472,0	1,2%	883,9	0,9%
142 Producer groups	37,0	0,3%	81,3	0,2%	234,2	0,2%
143 Direct Payment (BG + RO)	3,6	0,0%	2,3	0,0%	15,8	0,0%
144 Holdings undergoing restructuring	64,3	0,5%	68,4	0,2%	197,5	0,2%
<b>Axis 1</b>	<b>4 274,4</b>	<b>32,3%</b>	<b>11 952,1</b>	<b>30,2%</b>	<b>31 835,5</b>	<b>33,1%</b>
211 Natural handicap payments to farmers in ...	1025,0	7,7%	4 160,9	10,5%	6 555,0	6,8%
212 Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps...	1038,0	7,8%	4 325,5	10,9%	7 341,8	7,6%
213 Natura 2000 payments and payments linked ..	39,6	0,3%	85,5	0,2%	633,5	0,7%
214 Agri-environment payments	3231,0	24,4%	12 030,1	30,4%	22 745,3	23,6%
215 Animal welfare payments	95,4	0,7%	207,9	0,5%	716,5	0,7%
216 Non-productive investments	91,7	0,7%	124,0	0,3%	570,3	0,6%
221 First afforestation of agricultural land	201,9	1,5%	829,1	2,1%	2 068,7	2,1%
222 First establishment of agroforestry systems...	0,3	0,0%	0,0	0,0%	11,7	0,0%
223 First afforestation of non-agricultural land	25,3	0,2%	65,5	0,2%	267,2	0,3%
224 Natura 2000 payments	5,7	0,0%	11,9	0,0%	67,5	0,1%
225 Forest-environment payments	9,2	0,1%	20,3	0,1%	193,7	0,2%
226 Restoring forestry potential and ...	204,2	1,5%	559,1	1,4%	1 573,8	1,6%
227 Non-productive investments	74,8	0,6%	185,5	0,5%	749,2	0,8%
<b>Axis 2</b>	<b>6 041,93</b>	<b>45,6%</b>	<b>22 605,41</b>	<b>57,0%</b>	<b>43 494,16</b>	<b>45,2%</b>
311 Diversification into non-agricultural activities	191,1	1,4%	339,0	0,9%	1 274,5	1,3%
312 Business creation and development	258,6	2,0%	373,7	0,9%	2 091,2	2,2%
313 Encouragement of tourism activities	116,7	0,9%	225,3	0,6%	1 252,2	1,3%
321 Basic services for the economy and rural ...	629,9	4,8%	771,5	1,9%	3 408,2	3,5%
322 Village renewal and development	647,2	4,9%	1148,8	2,9%	3 345,6	3,5%
323 Conservation and upgrading of the rural....	159,2	1,2%	339,7	0,9%	1 253,7	1,3%
331 Training and information	13,2	0,1%	29,9	0,1%	113,6	0,1%
341 Skills acquisition, animation and implement...	12,2	0,1%	51,7	0,1%	129,7	0,1%
<b>Axis 3</b>	<b>2 028,00</b>	<b>15,3%</b>	<b>3 279,6</b>	<b>8,3%</b>	<b>12 868,7</b>	<b>13,4%</b>
411 Implementing local development strategies...	30,6	0,2%	53,4	0,1%	553,1	0,6%
412 Implementing local development strategies...	5,0	0,0%	5,8	0,0%	165,7	0,2%
413 Implementing local development strategies....	530,9	4,0%	552,8	1,4%	4065,2	4,2%
421 Implementing cooperation projects	15,3	0,1%	12,4	0,0%	267,1	0,3%
431 Running the local action group, acquiring ...	132,0	1,0%	265,4	0,7%	1002,5	1,0%
<b>Axis 4</b>	<b>713,8</b>	<b>5,4%</b>	<b>889,8</b>	<b>2,2%</b>	<b>6 053,6</b>	<b>6,3%</b>
<b>511 Technical Assistance</b>	179,2	1,4%	463,0	1,2%	1537,3	1,6%
<b>611 BG RO Direct Payments</b>	-0,5	0,0%	437,8	1,1%	459,4	0,5%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>13 236,9</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>39 627,8</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>96 248,7</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

\*Member States declare their expenditure quarterly. However for year n, Q4 declarations are submitted in January of year n+1. Consequently, the corresponding reimbursements by the Commission to the Member States in year n go from Q4 of year n-1 until Q3 of year n.

### **3.5 Implementation of EAFRD programmes**

Graph 2 on the next page presents the financial implementation rate of rural development programmes per Member State: payments from the beginning of the programming period to 2012, including Q4 2012 that is reimbursed in financial year 2013, compared with the 2007-2012 commitments according to the financial plan. The average EAFRD financial implementation rate for all EAFRD programmes is 78%.

Graph 2 shows that most Member States have absorbed more than 75% of the 2007-2012 commitments.

Until the end of 2012 the application of the N+2 rule has resulted in relatively small decommitments for three rural development programmes. Those decommitments amount in total to EUR 7.4 million and relate to years 2008 and 2009. Decommitments in relation to year 2010 will be made in 2013.

**Graph 2 - Financial implementation rate of RD programs by Member State (% of the EAFRD payments including payment claims Q4 2012 compared with 2007-2012 commitments)**

