

# Rural Development Programme

## Questions & Answers: Voluntary Modulation Impact Assessment

Last updated - Wednesday, 13 June 2007



### Q&A

#### **What is the voluntary modulation impact assessment?**

One of the regulatory requirements governing the use of Voluntary Modulation (VM) in the new programming period is to submit to the Commission an assessment of the impact of applying VM. No formal template for this assessment was specified in the regulations, but this assessment explains our decision to continue to apply VM, analyses the expected impacts on farms and explains why the expansion of agri-environment schemes in England is so important for meeting our biodiversity, climate change and water quality targets.

#### **When was this submitted to the Commission?**

In accordance with the deadline laid down in EU legislation, the formal communication of VM rates in the UK and the associated impact assessment was submitted to the Commission on 12 June 2007.

#### **What are the other UK regions doing?**

The impact assessment has been produced jointly by the UK regions. The main part of the document outlines the impact of VM on the UK as a whole, and there are separate sections which focus on the impact at the regional level.

#### **What will the Commission do with this impact assessment?**

The Commission don't need to approve the assessment we have sent them, but the voluntary modulation regulation requires them to monitor closely the implementation of voluntary modulation and to submit a report to the European Parliament and the European Council by 31 December 2008. We hope that the detailed information we have provided to the Commission in this document will help inform the review of all Pillar 2 funding which will form part of the forthcoming CAP Healthcheck.