Explanation of the variables in the AMIS Policy Database

1. Policy_ID

The policy_ID it is a unique ID associated to each record in the database.

2. CPL_ID

The CPL_ID is the numerical code associated with a specific CPL_Code. The CPL_Code stands for the Commodity-Policy-Location_Code and is created to track a specific policy on a specific commodity in a specific location. The CPL_Code is created for every unique combination of nine fields, which each relate either to a commodity specification, a policy specification or a location specification. These nine fields are:

- Country_Name
- Subnational_Code
- CommodityDomain_Name
- PolicyDomain_Name
- PolicyType_Name
- PolicyMeasure_Name
- Commodity_ID
- Condition_Code
- IndividualPolicy_Code

3. Country_Name

Short name of the country.

4. Subnational_Name

Policies can be implemented at the national level or at other levels of government, such as federal state or province level. The Subnational_Name field specifies the state, province or other territorial institution at which the policy has been implemented. If the policy is only implemented at the national level, the entry in this field is “none”.

5. CommodityDomain_Name

There are two commodity domains: agricultural and biofuels. The commodities included in the agricultural commodity domain are wheat, maize, rice and soybean. The database considers both the raw and semi-processed forms of these commodities, as well as combinations of these commodities. The commodities considered in the biofuels commodity domain are the liquid biofuels ethanol and biodiesel, which are generally produced from sugars, grains or seeds.

6. CommodityClass_Name

Policies in the AMIS policy database are targeted at a single commodity or a group of commodities. Each single commodity or group of commodities is categorized in a specific commodity class, which

can be composed of a single element or mixed elements. An example of a 'single' commodity class is "wheat", while an example of a 'mixed' commodity class is "wheat + maize".

The agricultural commodities covered by the database can be classified in one of the 4 'single' commodity classes, namely wheat, maize, rice and soybeans. In the case of import quotas, export quotas or export subsidies, 'mixed' commodity classes can occur when the measure is shared by different types of commodities. A particular export subsidy, for example, can apply to a group of commodities composed of both wheat and maize commodities. In this case, the commodity class will be "wheat + maize". Note that a policy targeted at a group of commodities does not necessarily imply that the commodity class is mixed. If the group of commodities is composed of only maize commodities then the (single) commodity class will be "maize". Mixed commodity classes also occur when the commodity considered is a semi-processed product composed of more than one of the 'single' commodity classes.

The biofuel commodities covered by the database can be classified in 2 'single' commodity classes, namely ethanol and biodiesel. The third biofuel commodity class, called "biofuel", can be considered a 'mixed' commodity class as it is used when a policy measure cannot be split between ethanol and biodiesel. Mandates or production quotas, for example, can be shared among several products and in this case the policy information will be stored in one single line in order to avoid double counting.

7. PolicyDomain_Name

There are two policy domains: domestic and trade. The domestic domain covers support policies on the production and use of the selected commodities. The biofuels commodity domain covers policy incentives such as biofuel use mandates, tax concessions, output-based payments, domestic price regulation. The focus is on price and/or volume-related policy measures. Therefore measures on investment, infrastructure, equipment, etc. are not included in the database. The trade domain covers export restrictions, export subsidies, import tariffs, tariff quotas and other import or export measures.

8. PolicyType_Name

Each policy domain contains a set of policy types. We distinguish between 11 policy types. The document *Definitions of policies* represents the full list of all the policy types, with their codes and abbreviations. The *Policy diagram* shows how the policy types have been categorized.

9. PolicyMeasure_Name

Each policy type contains a set of policy measures. We distinguish between 48 policy measures. The document *Definitions of policies* represents the full list of all the policy measures, with their codes, abbreviations and definitions. The *Policy diagram* shows how the policy measures have been categorized.

10. Condition

When the application of the policy measure or the value to be applied depends on certain conditions that can be related to the commodity (specification, product packaging, quantities, etc.), countries,

firms, etc. this information is collected in the field 'Condition'. If no condition applies, then the entry in this field is "none".

Note that the condition is part of the policy measure itself; a particular policy measure on a particular commodity in a specific country might be distinguished from another one by the condition alone. This explains why the field condition is part of the CPL_Code.

11. IndividualPolicy_Name

This field provides extra policy information for domestic policies in the agricultural commodity domain and for certain tax concessions related to the biofuel commodity domain.

For the domestic policies in the agricultural domain, explanations of each country's individual policy are available under "Definitions and Sources" on the website http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/producerandconsumersupportestimatesdatabase.htm

12. Commodity_ID

Commodity_ID is the number associated with a particular commodity. Each commodity is characterized by the unique combination of the following fields:

- HS_Code
- HS_Version
- HS_Suffix
- Country
- Commodity_Description
- Shared_Group_Code

Please refer to the *Commoditylist document* for the complete description of all commodities and their codes.

13. HS_Version

The Harmonized System (HS) is regularly updated by the World Customs Organization (usually every four to six years), with the most recent version published in 2012. Since product descriptions might change between the different versions or new product categories might be created over time, the 'HS version' is also needed to identify products. Note that product codes and/or descriptions in an old HS version have been transposed precisely into newer versions of HS nomenclature in order to maintain historical track of commodities. The WTO provides correlation tables between the different HS versions.

14. HS_Code

In the case of trade measures, the products in the database are identified by their HS code, HS version and HS suffix. As explained on the WTO website, "the World Customs Organization's Harmonized System (HS) uses code numbers to define products. A code with a low number of digits defines broad categories of products; additional digits indicate sub-divisions into more detailed

definitions. Six-digit codes are the most detailed definitions that are used as standard. Countries can add more digits for their own coding to subdivide the definitions further according to their own needs". HS codes with 6 digits are hence standardized and suitable for cross-country comparisons. HS codes with more than 6 digits are country-specific.

15. HS_Suffix

The HS suffix is used in the case of import tariffs and is generally provided by the WTO Member in question. When the Member's tariff submission contains a repetition of the same tariff line (or sub-heading) and the same description, but different duties are associated to it, the WTO Secretariat may assign one or more suffixes to differentiate each notified concession. The file is then sent for approval to the Member concerned. Suffixes are also used when products with the same HS code and HS version have different product descriptions.

16. Short_description

To improve the legibility of the production descriptions in the online database application, short descriptions have been created of all commodity descriptions. These short descriptions are no official definitions of the products and should not be used as such.

17. Description

For trade policies, the Commodity_Description corresponds to the HS description as provided by the WTO.

For domestic policies, no international standard coding system is used to record products. The Commodity_Description records the product definition or specification as provided in the legislation.

18. Shared_Group_Code

When a policy measure is shared by several products (e.g. export quotas, tariff quotas and export subsidies), the information on the policy measure is stored in only one data line in order to avoid double counting of the measure. The specific commodities among which a measure is shared can be tracked by the "Shared group code" that is given for the shared group of commodities. The shared group codes for export subsidies and tariff quotas correspond to the XS ID and TQ ID used by the WTO. The shared group codes for export quotas are newly created codes. Each shared group code is composed of 3 parts: 1) the ISO3 code of the country, 2) the letter X (in the case of export subsidies), Q (in the case of tariff quotas) or R (in the case of export restrictions, and 3) 3 numbers to identify the group of commodities.

The list of commodities that are included in a particular shared group can be downloaded when querying the database.

19. Policy_Element

This field is only relevant for export subsidies, import tariffs and tariff quotas. Each of these three policy measures are characterized by a set of policy elements which should be considered in conjunction. For example, an import tariff is characterized by the MFN applied tariff and by the

bound tariff. A tariff quota is characterized by its binding level, the bound initial quantity, the bound final quantity, the notified TRQ size and the notified imports.

20. Start_Date

The start date is defined as the date on which a policy measure enters into force, is extended or is modified, as determined in the legal document.

The original datasets for import tariffs, tariff quotas, producer and consumer support estimates only specify the year. In this case, the start date is set as January 1rst of that year.

Export subsidies are also reported on a yearly basis, but in this case the original datasets provide a specific start date.

21. End_Date

The end date is the expiration date of the policy measure as determined in the legal document. The end date can be open if it is not specified in the legal document. The end date can also be manually entered in case a new policy measure replaces an older policy measure. In this case, the end date of the older policy measure is automatically set to one day before the start date of the new policy measure and the field “Imposed_End_Date” is filled in with “yes”.

22. Units

Units as provided in the official source. This field is empty when the field “Value_text” is filled in or when the policy measure is “Export prohibition”, “License requirement”, or “Restriction on customs clearance point for exports”.

Note that certain units have been harmonised (e.g. gallons have been converted to litres and cents have been converted to dollars).

23. Value

Quantitative or numerical value of the policy measure. This field should always be considered in conjunction with the field “Units”. The fields “Value” and “Value_Text” are mutually exclusive.

24. Value_Text

Qualitative value or text description of the policy measure. When this field is filled in, the field “Units” is empty. The fields “Value” and “Value_Text” are mutually exclusive.

25. Value_Type

There are six types of values: bound, calculated, committed, estimated, notified, and observed.

Bound values occur in the case of import measures (import tariffs and tariff quotas). As reported on the WTO website: “bound rates are a commitment not to increase a rate of duty beyond an agreed level. Once a rate of duty is bound, it may not be raised without compensating the affected parties.”

Calculated values can occur in the case of tax reductions or exemptions. For example, if the ethanol excise tax rate is set to be lower than the gasoline excise tax rate, the database shows the value gap between the ethanol and gasoline excise tax rates. The tax rate gap is calculated subtracting the tax rate of ethanol and the benchmark product (gasoline). The fields required for the calculation are also recorded in the database, namely Benchmark_Tax, Benchmark_Product, Tax_Rate_Biofuel, Tax_Rate_Benchmark, Start_Date_Tax and Source_Benchmark.

Committed values occur in the case of export subsidies, to specify the quantity or budget that has been committed by the country.

The values that are reported for the producer and consumer support measures are estimated values.

Notified values are values that have been notified by the countries to the WTO and occur in the case of export subsidies and tariff quotas.

Observed values are values directly specified in the legal document or in the official source and which are not bound, calculated, committed, estimated or notified.

26. Exemptions

This field specifies which countries, firms or commodities are exempted from a particular policy measure. This field is empty when no exemptions are granted.

27. Location_Condition

When a nation-wide policy measure sets different values to be applied for different regions or locations, the information on the location in which the policy value applies is collected in the field “Location Condition”. For example the maximum reference prices for biodiesel purchases in Brazil are different for the different regions. The “Location condition” and the “Subnational level” are different because the subnational level indicates the subnational level of government that issues and implements a policy measure in the corresponding subnational area, while the location condition applies when the measure has been issued at the national level but with different values for different areas.

28. Notes

Contains additional information that could not be recorded in any of the other fields.

29. Link

Hyperlink to the title of notice, official government website, legal document or international organization that divulges the information. When more than one hyperlink is provided, the first link usually refers to the legal document if available, while the second one can refer to the government website where relevant policies are put together or to a relevant report.

30. Source

Name of the agency hosting the information.

31. Title_Of_Notice

Title of the legal notice/document providing information about the measure.

32. Legal_Basis_Name

Title of law/regulation/decree authorising or mandating the measure.

33. Date_Of_Publication

This field documents the date on which a measure is officially published, this date is not necessarily the same as the start date.

34. Imposed_End_Date

This field is filled in with “yes” when the end date was not stipulated by the law but manually entered in the database because a new measure replaced an old measure.

35. Second_Generation_Specific

This field relates to biofuels and is filled with “yes” if the law/regulation specifies that the policy applies to second generation biofuels.

36. Benchmark_Tax

If the value_type is calculated, this field indicates the benchmark tax for the calculation, for example gasoline tax for a tax concession on ethanol.

37. Benchmark_Product

If the value_type is calculated, this field indicates the benchmark product for the calculation, for example gasoline or regular diesel for a tax concession on ethanol or biodiesel respectively.

38. Tax_Rate_Biofuel

If the value_type is calculated, this field indicates the tax rate for the original biofuel product.

39. Tax_Rate_Benchmark

If the value_type is calculated, this field indicates the tax rate for the benchmark product.

40. Start_Date_Tax

If the value_type is calculated, this field indicates the date when the benchmark tax rates enter into force.

41. Benchmark_Link

If the value_type is calculated, this field provides hyperlink(s) to the websites that provide information on the Benchmark-related fields (Benchmark_Tax, Benchmark_Product, Tax_Rate_Biofuel, Tax_Rate_Benchmark, Start_Date_Tax)

42. Original_Dataset

Indicates the organization and name of dataset from which the policy measure originates.

43. Type_Of_Change_Name

Indicates whether a policy measure has been introduced, decreased, eliminated, extended, increased or revised.

44. Measure_Descr

Provides additional information on the policy measure as specified in the legal document.

45. Product_Original_HS

Original HS code as specified in the legal document.

46. Product_Original_Name

Original product name as specified in the legal document.

47. ImplementationProcedure

Implementation procedure of the measure.

48. XS_Yeartype

This field is only relevant for Export Subsidies and specifies the year type, which can be fiscal year (FY), calendar year (CY) or marketing year (MY).

49. Link_pdf

Hyperlinks sometimes become inactive. To avoid losing the information that is displayed on the websites, each hyperlink is saved as a pdf. The names of these pdf files are entered in this field.

50. Benchmark_link_pdf

Hyperlinks sometimes become inactive. To avoid losing the information that is displayed on the websites, each hyperlink is saved as a pdf. The names of these pdf files are entered in this field.

51. CPL_Code

The CPL_Code stands for the Commodity-Policy-Location_Code and is created to track a specific policy on a specific commodity in a specific location. The CPL_Code is created for every unique combination of nine fields, which each relate either to a commodity specification, a policy specification or a location specification. These nine fields are:

- Country_Name
- Subnational_Code
- CommodityDomain_Name
- PolicyDomain_Name
- PolicyType_Name
- PolicyMeasure_Name
- Commodity_ID
- Condition_Code
- IndividualPolicy_Code

The entries in these fields are either a name or a code. The CPL_Code is a concatenation of the codes or abbreviations of the entries in these fields. For example, the CPL_Code CA99_AgDo_DpArea_85_136_204, should be interpreted as follows:

Abbreviation or Code	**Field**	**Full description**
CA	Country_Name	Canada
99	Subnational_Code	Not Applicable
Ag	CommodityDomain_Name	Agricultural
Do	PolicyDomain_Name	Domestic
Dp	PolicyType_Name	Direct payments
Area	PolicyMeasure_Name	Area payments
85	Commodity_ID	Refer to the *Commoditylist document* to find the complete description of the commodity
136	Condition_Code	Payment rates variable
204	IndividualPolicy_Name	Special Canadian Grains Program--Maize - PC28

52. Country_Code

The Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL) code is used for the numerical code of each country. In the CPL_Code, the ISO-2 code of the country is used to indicate the country. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the country names and their codes.

53. Subnational_Code

The Subnational_Code is the numerical code associated with a specific Subnational_Name. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the Subnational names and their codes.

54. CommodityDomain_Code

The CommodityDomain_Code is the numerical code associated with a specific CommodityDomain_Name. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the Commodity domain names and their codes.

55. CommodityClass_Code

The CommodityClass _Code is the numerical code associated with a specific CommodityClass _Name. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the Commodity Class names and their codes.

56. PolicyDomain_Code

The PolicyDomain_Code is the numerical code associated with a specific PolicyDomain_Name. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the Policy domain names and their codes.

57. PolicyType_Code

The PolicyType_Code is the numerical code associated with a specific PolicyType_Name. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the Policy type names and their codes.

58. PolicyMeasure_Code

The PolicyMeasure_Code is the numerical code associated with a specific PolicyMeasure_Name. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the Policy measure names and their codes.

59. Condition_Code

The Condition_Code is the numerical code associated with a specific Condition.

60. IndividualPolicy_Code

The IndividualPolicy_Code is the numerical code associated with a specific IndividualPolicy_Name.

For the tax concessions related to biofuels, this field specifies from which tax biofuels are partially or completely exempt.

61. Type_Of_Change_Code

The Type_Of_Change _Code is the numerical code associated with a specific Type_Of_Change _Name. Please refer to the *Codelist document* for the complete list of the type of change names and their codes.