

**Question for written answer E-002644/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
João Oliveira (The Left)

Subject: Billionaires' companies benefiting from Common Agricultural Policy subsidies

The Guardian recently reported that the companies of more than a dozen billionaires received EUR 3.3 billion from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) between 2018 and 2021. The newspaper stated that, in the same period – and ‘according to analysis of official but opaque data’ – thousands of small farms closed down.

Portugal's 2019 agricultural census counted 290 000 farms, noting that 15 500 farms had closed since 2009 (in 1989, there were around 600 000). The average size of agricultural holdings was continuing to follow an upward trend, measuring 13.6 hectares per holding (in 1989, this figure stood at 6.7 ha/holding).

This development is a result of the CAP, which has the effect of promoting concentration and large producers by favouring payment on the basis of the holding's area or without obligations relating to production, with no direct link to actual production.

In view of the above:

1. In the current and previous MFF, what proportion of CAP funding in Portugal goes or went to large producers and what proportion to others?
2. Is the Commission considering revising the CAP's financing conditions, to ensure – among other necessary measures – that payments are linked to production and that they guarantee preferential support for small and medium-sized farms?

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