Question for written answer E-004219/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (Renew)

Subject: Disappearing grasslands and weakening of environmental protections under the common agricultural policy omnibus

Permanent grasslands are essential for Europe's carbon storage, soil health and biodiversity. A recent article in the Dutch newspaper *Het Financieele Dagblad*[1] shows that substantial areas of grassland in the Netherlands are being converted into arable land. This trend appears to be reinforced by market and policy incentives.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission provide up-to-date figures on the net change in permanent grassland area across the EU since 2015, including how much of this land has been converted for arable use or other purposes?

2. Can the Commission provide an assessment on the impact of the proposed changes to environmental conditionalities under the common agricultural policy omnibus, specifically those related to permanent grasslands (GAEC 1)[2], on carbon storage capacity and biodiversity across Member States?

3. Given the crucial role of grasslands in meeting the EU's climate and biodiversity targets, how does the Commission intend to prevent further loss of permanent grassland and strengthen its protection in the next common agricultural policy reform, and how will it engage with Member States on this issue?

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[1] Het Financieele Dagblad, Special, https://specials.fd.nl/verdwijnend-grasland-het-volgende-landbouwprobleem-over-tien-jaar-kopen-we-akkerbouwers-uit.

[2] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1235 of 12 March 2024 amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules on the ratio for the good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC) standard 1C/2024/1488OJ L, 2024/1235, 26.4.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/1235/oj.