

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001491/24
to the Commission
Alexander Bernhuber (PPE)
(7 August 2024)**

Subject: Strengthening the competitiveness of Europe's agricultural sector

The competitiveness of Europe's agricultural sector is crucial to food sovereignty.

1. What initiatives does the Commission have in the pipeline to boost the global competitiveness of Europe's agricultural sector?
2. If Ukraine joins the EU, how will the Commission ensure that this does not lead to unfair competition between existing Member States and Ukraine?

Submitted: 8.8.2024

**Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski on behalf of the European Commission
(16 October 2024)**

1. The Common Agricultural Policy has a plethora of tools to support and improve the competitiveness of European farmers. Beyond direct income support with different complementary payments for farmers facing specific challenges, access to finance via financial instruments and support for innovation as well as farm advisory services. The Commission will continue its focus on strengthening the EU food system's competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability. In its first 100 days, the Commission will publish a communication on a Vision for Agriculture and Food outlining a long-term perspective for the sector and addressing imbalances in the food chain. This communication will take stock of the recommendations from the recent report of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU Agriculture ⁽¹⁾, present a first assessment of feasible proposals and build bridges with other policy areas, in order to ensure the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of EU agriculture, highlighting its strategic role in the new geopolitical context.
2. The enlargement process will need to be carefully managed so that the internal market and a common agricultural policy are maintained, avoiding undue shocks and with careful consideration of competitive pressure. It will therefore require a thorough impact assessment of its long-term effects on the viability of agriculture in the EU-27 and in the acceding countries to properly address any identified challenges. The enlargement process will also take time and is merit-based, which will allow for gradual integration of Ukraine in order to mitigate any unwanted shocks. Finally, as any candidate country, Ukraine will have to apply the EU *acquis* in full at accession. This includes all EU requirements in the area of agriculture in force at that time.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/171329ff-0f50-4fa5-946f-aea11032172e_en?filename=strategic-dialogue-report-2024_en.pdf