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Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.11.2024)

The Commission does not favour farmers in third countries: all imported agri-food products must comply with EU health and food safety requirements about products characteristics. Non-compliant products cannot be sold in the EU, whether produced domestically or imported. In addition, imported products must also comply with certain EU production requirements, to raise standards globally and to avoid social and environmental leakages.

The same maximum residue levels of pesticides apply to all food and feed products placed on the EU market, regardless of origin. In some cases, producers in third countries with production conditions and pest pressures different from those in the EU might need to use substances not authorized or not submitted for authorisation in the EU, but residues must remain below strict public health safety levels set by the European Food Safety Authority.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) accompanies EU farmers in the shift towards sustainable food systems, provides them income support, assists them in the production of safe, healthy and affordable food, and rewards them for delivering public goods, such as taking care of the countryside and the environment.

The distribution of CAP funding for direct payments (the largest support element of the CAP) is part of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027. It provides for an external 'convergence' of the direct payments, which over time, will lead to a reduction of historically based differences in the amounts available per hectare between Member States. For Romania, this mechanism leads to a gradual increase in the amounts available per hectare during the MFF period.