

EN

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Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.11.2024)

1. The Action Plan¹ on the 25% target includes other quantitative targets like dedicating at least 30% of the Horizon Europe² budget for research and innovation actions on agriculture, forestry and rural areas to topics specific to or relevant for the organic sector. Others (on e.g. public procurement, sales) were not retained because premature or not credible. The actions in the Plan were formulated in a concrete manner enabling easy monitoring. The Commission does not envisage any changes to the current Plan as this is a prerogative of the incoming Commission.

2. The Commission has successfully encouraged Member States to develop comprehensive national strategies on organic production. Under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)³ 2023-2027, the planned share of the utilised agricultural area to be supported under the Strategic Plans for organic farming almost doubled (to about 10%) compared to the previous period. Member States with low budgets allocated to organic farming have increased their efforts. National ambitions range from 2.5% to 23.7 % of the respective utilised agricultural areas to be organically farmed. The Commission will continue to encourage Member States to support organic farming under the CAP and to align support for organic farming more with the needs and challenges identified in the organic sector. It is logical that the biggest Member States together make up a high share of the total budget for organic farming support, which reflects the size of the agricultural area covered.

3. Efforts to include training and advise on organic farming have been strengthened under the current CAP and several Member States (e.g. Slovenia, Bulgaria) include a requirement for training in the area-based support for organic farming.

¹ Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production (COM(2021) 141).

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

³ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-glance_en