

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001976/24
to the Commission
Julien Leonardelli (Pfe)
(7 October 2024)**

Subject: Common agricultural policy subsidies for coriander producers in Occitania

At a time when the sowing season has already started, producers of coriander in the Occitania region in France have been displeased to learn, by means of an order of the regional prefect, that common agricultural policy subsidies, including those for the organic sector, would be subject to a particularly strict cap: EUR 2 700 per holding for applications including the crop code 'AAR-précision 004 coriandre, cumin'. EUR 20 000 per holding had originally been budgeted for that subsidy, and farmers based their investments on that figure.

That cap is seriously harmful to coriander producers in the Occitania region. It seems all the more unjustified and incomprehensible given that coriander production has shot up in France recently (from 1 850 hectares to 3 520 hectares between 2019 and 2020, an increase of 81%). What is more, markets in France and the other Member States of the European Union are currently gaining ground back, including in the light of the state of affairs in Ukraine.

Will the Commission reconsider its position and propose a significant increase to the subsidy cap for this year?

Submitted: 7.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski on behalf of the European Commission
(18 November 2024)**

Any direct payments for coriander producers in Occitania have to be granted in accordance with the provisions of the French Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan ⁽¹⁾, including those concerning the eligibility of support for conversion to organic farming.

In the French CAP Strategic Plan, the level of support is categorised by the type of farming and/or crops and based on EUR per hectares.

The relevant category for coriander sets support at 900 EUR per hectare. Nonetheless, it also includes a sentence allowing for regional adaptations.

The Commission recalls that, under the shared management of the CAP Strategic Plans, the new cap introduced by the regional prefect is under the responsibility of the French authorities.

At first look, it does not seem to contradict the provisions of the French CAP Strategic Plan as it has been approved by the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 ⁽²⁾.

Still, the Commission has been in contact with the French authorities on this issue. These are aware and explained to the Commission that due to the budgetary limits they faced, they had to introduce such a capping. The French authorities highlighted that support announced is always conditional to available funds.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans/france_en
⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R2115>