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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a critical component of the EU's food security policy as it helps to ensure an attractive and sustainable agricultural sector. Member States recognise that the old farmer population is a challenge for long-term food security and rural livelihoods and support generational renewal through a combination of tools, dedicated resources and prioritisation of support. In the period 2023-2027, the CAP Strategic Plans support about 377 000 young farmers in setting up an agricultural activity. This represents an increase in most Member States.

In 2025, the Commission will develop a strategy for generational renewal and is also planning to support the development of a land observatory. Promoting transparency and accountability in the land market, can contribute to improving access to land for young farmers.

The EU-Mercosur offers real market access for EU exporters. It will also protect 355 traditional EU food products from imitation by recognising Geographical Indications. Exporters of high value-added exports will benefit significantly from the removal of tariffs. The Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA)¹ on the potential impact of the trade agreement demonstrated that it will have a positive impact on the economies of both the EU and the Mercosur. At the same time, it identified a limited impact on sensitive agri-food sectors in the EU. The agreement contains instruments to alleviate pressure on sensitive sectors.

Improving the position of farmers in the agri-food supply chain and supporting their income are important objectives of the CAP, as evidenced by the recently proposed new measures to strengthen farmers' position in the agri-food supply chain.

¹ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/analysis-and-assessment/sustainability-impact-assessments_en