

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002456/24
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(6 November 2024)**

Subject: Agricultural crisis reserve

The size and speed of the climate change we are facing today is unprecedented, bringing heatwaves, droughts, floods and the spread of vector-borne diseases that affect livestock (e.g. bluetongue virus). We can expect an increase in prices and, above all, huge volatility in the agricultural products market.

To ensure farm resilience at European level, it is vital that we build a genuine European strategy to manage risks and crises, including a crisis reserve that can meet the challenges and a truly common approach.

Does the Commission intend to act on Parliament's 2019 proposal to remodel the agricultural crisis reserve as a tool for climate insurance with mutual funds for market risk management, or would it prefer to argue for an increase in special instruments as was done in the mid-term review?

Submitted: 6.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(20 December 2024)**

With increasing uncertainties for EU farmers, risk and crisis management are essential aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Alleviating farmers' vulnerability requires a resilient, competitive and sustainable farm sector capable to absorb the shocks.

EU agriculture is engaged in a transition to reduce risks and become more resilient and sustainable, adapt further to climate change, reduce its impact on the environment while continuing to contribute to the EU and global food security.

The CAP aims at accompanying farmers in this transition and creating the right enabling environment to let farmers in the EU to find their best business model according to their reality on the field.

An efficient and effective policy approach to risk management in agriculture must consider interactions and trade-offs between different risks, on-farm strategies, market and supply chain solutions, and government policies.

While crisis response tools as the exceptional market measures funded through the agricultural reserve are needed to address catastrophic events in the short term, they should not replace risk prevention, nor discourage transformational change and farmers' uptake of longer-term solutions.

Policy coherence between crisis response measures and measures aimed at preventing crises and managing risks for farmers should be promoted to build a resilient, competitive and sustainable EU agricultural sector. These principles will guide the future development of the CAP toolbox, including the agricultural reserve.
