

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002457/24
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(6 November 2024)**

Subject: MFF — CAP budget — new own resources

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as a share of the EU budget has fallen over the past 40 years from 65.5% in 1981 to around 23.5% in 2022.

Meanwhile, we are seeing growing compensation through state aid. In the mid-term, this could lead to renationalisation of the CAP on the one hand and, on the other, to a distortion of competition, creating significant tensions within the common market. Negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) will begin in 2025 with discussions on the CAP budget for the next seven years.

1. How does the Commission view these negotiations?
2. Will the Commission advocate the adoption of new own resources in order to reinforce the CAP budget and to guarantee a decent income for our farmers?
3. What is the Commission's position in relation to the increased use of state aid and the risk of renationalisation of the CAP?

Submitted: 6.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(13 January 2025)**

As set out in the Political Guidelines for the next Commission 2024-2029 ⁽¹⁾, the objective is to have a new long-term budget that is more focused, simpler and more impactful.

For the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Commission aims to ensure that it is targeted and finds the right balance between incentives, investments and regulation. The report of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture ⁽²⁾ provides for a basis to move this work forward.

The priority is to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector. The Commission's goal is to enable farmers to work their land without excessive bureaucracy, ensure that farmers have a fair and sufficient income and are rewarded for working with nature, preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

New own resources would help to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding for the common priorities. It is with this in mind that the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2020 called for the introduction of new own resources.

To this effect, in June 2023 the Commission presented the adjusted package on the next generation of own resources ⁽³⁾, which is estimated to provide total revenues of around EUR 36 billion ⁽⁴⁾ per year from 2028 onwards.

The state aid framework in place allows for targeted support to the agriculture sector, which will help in its transition, while safeguarding fair competition. Compatible state aid is a useful tool to support the sector.

On 10 December 2024, the Commission adopted an amendment ⁽⁵⁾ of the 'de minimis' Regulation for the agricultural sector that increases the maximum *de minimis* ceiling per company over three years, from EUR 25 000 to EUR 50 000. Compatible state aid and *de minimis* aid is however not meant to replace the support under the CAP.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/agriculture-and-green-deal/strategic-dialogue-future-eu-agriculture_en

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/own-resources-legal-texts_en

⁽⁴⁾ 2018 prices.

⁽⁵⁾ https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/agriculture/legislation_en