

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002479/24
to the Commission
Maria Grapini (S&D)
(8 November 2024)**

Subject: The future of agriculture

Discussions over the future of agriculture have been increasing in intensity, especially following the protests by farmers in recent years.

1. How will the Commission maintain a pragmatic dialogue with all the stakeholders in order to pinpoint the best means of supporting farmers and the entire agri-food chain?
2. How and when will it decide on a reform of the CAP so as to ensure the convergence of subsidies called for by farmers in central and eastern Europe and to improve the protection afforded to farmers on the internal market against the invasion of counterfeit and subsidised products from third countries?

Submitted: 8.11.2024

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

In January 2024 the Commission President launched the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture, in order to strengthen the understanding of current challenges, bringing together farmers and other stakeholders from across the agri-food chain.

The outcome of these discussions led to a series of recommendations published in September 2024 ⁽¹⁾. To follow-up on an immediate recommendation, and on top of current dialogue platforms already in place, the Commission has recently launched the European Board on Agri-Food (EBAF) to ensure a more regular dialogue with key strategic stakeholders ⁽²⁾.

The outcome of the Strategic Dialogue, as well as other consultations and exchanges with citizens, stakeholders, Member States and other European institutions, will contribute to the preparation of policy initiatives by the College of Commissioners, including the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) expected by end of 2025, following the presentation of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034. At this stage, it is too early to anticipate the content of such proposals.

The EU stands firm against unfair trade practices through trade defence instruments, in line with World Trade Organisation rules and to protect European producers against international trade distortions.

The EU will keep using these instruments in cases there is a need to restore fairness. In addition, food products placed on the EU market must comply with very stringent standards, and Member States must carry out official controls and enforcement activities according to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 ⁽³⁾ at all stages of production, including at the stage of import, to ensure that only products in compliance with the applicable legislation are placed on the market.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/171329ff-0f50-4fa5-946f-aea11032172e_en?filename=strategic-dialogue-report-2024_en.pdf

⁽²⁾ With a call of interest published on 5 December 2024.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>