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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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1. Fair competition within the EU is ensured through a combination of legal provisions such as those laid down in the Common Agricultural policy (CAP), including the Common Market Organisation, State aid rules and competition policy, as well as trade defence rules to tackle dumped and subsidised imports.

2. The CAP plays a key role to contribute to a fair income for European farmers and increase their competitiveness in the global market. An income support is provided to farmers subject to specific conditions, as well as funding opportunities for on-farm investments, knowledge transfer activities, cooperation, risk management tools which help farmers to be more competitive, while pursuing sustainability objectives. A set of measures are available to strengthen farmers' position in the agri-food supply chain, for which a recent amendment has been proposed¹.

All agricultural products entering the EU from any third country are also subject to the Union's rules on sanitary and phytosanitary standards. Regular audits are carried out in third countries to evaluate the reliability of their export certification systems. Furthermore, the EU has also adopted autonomous measures to promote sustainability standards related to common concerns on health, environment, and animal welfare (e.g., EU legislation on deforestation or antimicrobial resistance). All recent EU trade agreements (FTAs) also contain a dedicated chapter on trade and sustainable development requiring compliance with social and environmental standards. In addition, the latest FTAs with Chile and New Zealand include a dedicated chapter on Sustainable Food Systems promoting cooperation on matters such as pesticides use reduction, or antimicrobial resistance.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_6321