

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002946/24
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left), Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)
(13 December 2024)**

Subject: The need for increased CAP funding

The common agricultural policy (CAP) is a top political priority for the EU. It supports food security, farmers, the sustainable management of natural resources and the preservation of rural areas and the rural economy. However, despite the importance of these objectives, successive EU enlargements and the specificities of the agricultural sector, CAP funding is dwindling. As the Commission states ⁽¹⁾, CAP spending as a share of GDP has decreased from 0.54% in the 1990s to 0.36% in 2022, while CAP expenditure as a share of the EU budget has dropped from 65.5% in 1981 to 23.6% in 2022. At a time when the agricultural sector faces increased production costs, unfair competition from non-EU countries and the challenge of generational renewal, it is imperative to strengthen the CAP in the new Multiannual Financial Framework, as has also been called for in the European Parliament plenary.

In view of the above:

1. Does it agree to boost funding for the agricultural reserve and to a more flexible implementation of the reserve so that it can respond to emergency situations and crises in a timely and effective manner?
2. What additional measures does it plan to take to strengthen the agricultural sector in the context of its upcoming proposal for the new multiannual EU budget?

Submitted: 13.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(12 March 2025)**

1. The new agricultural reserve has proven to be a more flexible instrument, effectively addressing various crisis situations across different Member States in recent years, unlike the previous crisis reserve that was only used once, in its final year 2022. However, several successive crises of different nature, from extreme weather events, animal diseases to market disturbances, have shown that the scale of crises is growing in the EU. Therefore, in addition to supporting farmers who are affected by crises, it is also essential to enhance risk management measures to prevent crises, bolster resilience of farmers and increase the use of insurance tools.

2. While the specifics of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are yet to be decided, the Commission's communication on 'The road to the next multiannual financial framework' underlines the continuous support to farmers and food security. Building on the recommendations from the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture ⁽¹⁾ and the Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽²⁾, a Common Agricultural Policy that is fit for purpose must provide targeted support to farmers who need it most, promote positive environmental and social outcomes through rewards and incentives for ecosystem services and support the right enabling conditions for thriving rural areas. It must become simpler, targeted and find the right balance between incentives, investment and regulation, and ensure that farmers have a fair and sufficient income.

¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/financing/cap-expenditure_en

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/agriculture-and-rural-development/strategic-dialogue-future-eu-agriculture_en

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>