

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000397/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(29 January 2025)

Subject: Ensuring food security in the face of meteorological and climate threats

The agriculture sector has been experiencing extreme weather events such as drought, floods and fires for many years running. These disasters, which have had a profound impact on agricultural production, soil quality and infrastructure are putting pressure on farmers, and disproportionately high pressure on small and medium-sized farms. In 2024, record high temperatures were reached; in January 2025, we are facing a wave of cold snaps. These events not only affect agricultural production, but also feed into higher food prices across the EU. Farmers and consumers are feeling the effects of these crises and food security is becoming a major concern.

1. What measures is the Commission considering for the promotion and wholesale adoption of technologies that can adapt/prepare the agriculture sector to cope with the impact of extreme weather events?
2. Does the Commission plan to quantify and publish data on the volume of primary agricultural products required to ensure European self-sufficiency and food security?
3. The agricultural reserve, which has been drained over the last three years, is insufficient to compensate farmers for the damage suffered as a result of natural disasters, while the redistribution of cohesion and CAP funding is unreliable as a long-term solution. Will the Commission propose a new fund — or alternative solutions — to address such situations?

Submitted: 29.1.2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 April 2025)

A range of EU policies currently support the development and uptake of technologies for the agricultural sector to assist in climate change adaptation — including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Horizon Europe ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission's communication on 'A Vision for Agriculture and Food' ⁽²⁾, addresses related issues and paves the way forward. It notes the importance of research, development and innovation to improve the competitiveness of agriculture, forestry and rural areas, and states that the CAP will continue to support agricultural knowledge and innovation system (AKIS) strategies. It also addresses aspects of the climate change adaptation challenge other than technology-related needs.

With regard to data on EU food security, the Commission invites the Honourable Member to explore the rich databases available ⁽³⁾.

With regard to the agricultural reserve, the aforementioned Vision for Agriculture and Food notes that the Commission and Member States should ensure policy coherence between risk and crisis management tools, and greater flexibilities for their uptake.

The functioning of the agricultural reserve should be carefully assessed to refocus it on specific crises of a specific magnitude, such as major market disturbances and animal/plant health issues, while the provision of exceptional support to farmers should be better linked to appropriate risk management and preventive measures.

⁽¹⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

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

⁽³⁾ <https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DataPortal/food-supply-security.html>