

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000958/25
to the Commission
Elsi Katainen (Renew)
(6 March 2025)**

Subject: Ensuring fair competition for farmers in the EU agricultural market in the future

The common agricultural policy turned a new leaf in 2023, when the new programming period began to be implemented. The new national programme for each individual Member State, created according to local conditions, represents an attempt to bring agricultural policy closer to farmers and their needs. That is the right way forward.

The European Commission, which took office in December 2024, has, as one of its main flagship projects, simplification. Reducing the administrative burden and legislative complexity and overlap must assume a key role. The same approach to simplification must also be extended to the agricultural sector and the law concerning farmers. These are particularly concrete measures to strengthen the competitiveness, profitability and market position of farmers, having regard to the European single market.

One practical notion regarding simplification is to steer EU funding in the direction of Member States under the ‘one envelope’ model. There have been clear references to the model in President von der Leyen’s guidelines, in the communication on the multiannual financial framework and in the Commission work programme for 2025. A fixed sum would be allocated to the Member States by the EU, which would be targeted at EU programmes via the national plan, to reflect national requirements.

1. How does the European Commission intend to ensure that the one envelope model will strengthen the strategic position of agriculture in the spirit of the Vision for Agriculture, meanwhile continuing to preserve a stable single market in the agricultural sector, and safeguard a sufficient standard of living for producers, if the Member States can independently decide how much of the funding can be allocated to agricultural subsidies, depending on the year?
2. How does the European Commission intend to ensure that the legal protection of farmers and their faith in the future will not be compromised, and how can investment certainty be guaranteed when the EU budget period and national budget periods do not correspond to one another, and different governments have different priorities with EU funding?

Submitted: 6.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2025)**

The Commission is currently working on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) and intends to present a proposal in July 2025.

The Commission communication on the road to the next MFF highlights the importance of food security and nature protection for sustaining Europe’s quality of life and emphasises that a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that is fit for purpose must provide targeted support to farmers who need it most, work within planetary boundaries supporting 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.

The Vision for Agriculture and Food adopted on 19 February 2025 ⁽¹⁾ provides more details on how the future CAP will address the challenges and needs of the EU agrifood sector and rural areas.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en