

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001030/25
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(10 March 2025)**

Subject: Struggling farmers and livestock breeders

Farmers, livestock breeders and bee-keepers are battling hard to make a living.

The CAP, which governments have co-decided and implemented over time, favours cartels that buy farmers' products at 'open' prices. Struggling farmers demand immediate support for their shrinking income. The Government's much-advertised reduction in VAT to 6% on agricultural supplies is of no benefit to farmers, as it has no impact on reducing production costs since, as intermediaries who sell products at 13% VAT, they are forced to pay the VAT difference to the revenue office.

In light of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position on the acute problems faced by struggling farmers, livestock breeders and bee-keepers in Greece, which are caused by the policy in place — with the CAP at the centre — and which are leading them down the path of hardship?
2. What is the Commission's position on the demands of agricultural producers for the replacement of lost income due to reduced production and low prices; the reduction of production costs by means of tax-free petrol at the pump, cheap electricity and water, and subsidies for fertilisers, agricultural supplies and animal feed; compensation of 100% of losses; state-guaranteed prices for farmers and a ceiling on supermarket prices; the implementation of all necessary infrastructure projects; measures against 'hellenization'; the linking of the subsidy to real agricultural production and the actual livestock count; the taking all necessary measures to control animal diseases and an increase in farmworkers' pensions?

Submitted: 10.3.2025

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

1. The Commission is fully aware of the challenges faced by many farmers, including in Greece. To address these challenges, the Vision for Agriculture and Food presented on 19 February 2025 ⁽¹⁾ contains an ambitious roadmap towards an agri-food system that is attractive, competitive, future-oriented, sustainable and fair for current and future generations, including trade and simplification. In particular, the work on the livestock and the simplification package, will look at improving the competitiveness and resilience of the livestock sector.
2. The current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) supports interventions that help farmers implement actions to prevent crisis situations and build on medium and long-term resilience. The CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (CSP) ⁽²⁾ for Greece includes tools to support farmers to mitigate short-term impacts, such as direct payments, sectoral and rural development interventions aiming to stabilise farmers' incomes. In addition, the CSP envisages also support for investments to restore agricultural potential following natural disasters, adverse climatic or catastrophic events.

Regarding the requests for input subsidies and State guaranteed prices, the Commission is and remains in favour of market orientation. In this context, the Vision states that farmers must get a better revenue from the market and that for this they need to benefit from a fair and equitable food chain. To this end, the Commission already on 10 December 2024 ⁽³⁾ adopted a proposal to rebalance the positions in the chain and it will consider further initiatives.

Other suggestions in relation to taxes, or pensions are largely in the remit of the national authorities or control bodies.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/vision-agriculture-food_en#:~:text=Shaping%20the%20future%20of%20farming%20and%20the%20agri-food,entire%20value%20chain%20within%20the%20EU%20and%20globally
⁽²⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>
⁽³⁾ COM(2024) 576 and 577 final.