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E-001031/2025

Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.5.2025)

The next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will face significant challenges, as outlined in the Commission communication ‘The road to the next multiannual financial framework’¹. The next long-term budget will have to be simpler, more focused and responsive, reflecting European strategic priorities.

The Political Guidelines of the President of the Commission² and the above-mentioned communication have set out the objective of a strengthened cohesion and growth policy with regions at the centre of the next MFF. Future cohesion policy will be designed and implemented in partnership with national, regional and local authorities.

Building on the Vision for Agriculture and Food³, the future Common Agricultural Policy⁴, 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.

At the same time, more frequent and dramatic climate-related disasters are having a heavy social and economic toll, with increasing costs. Further work on climate and water resilience is necessary, as highlighted by the European Court of Auditors in its recommendations for future-proofing EU funding for climate adaptation⁵.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/6d47acb4-9206-4d0f-8f9b-3b10cad7b1ed_en?filename=Communication%20on%20the%20road%20to%20the%20next%20MFF_en.pdf

² https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

³ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-2023-27_en

⁵ https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-15/SR-2024-15_EN.pdf?trk=public_post_comment-text