

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002025/25
to the Commission
Kristian Vigenin (S&D)
(20 May 2025)**

Subject: Direct support schemes for bee-keeping under the CAP: access to finance and inclusion of the industry in strategic planning

The bee-keeping sector in the EU plays an important role both in sustainable agriculture and in biodiversity conservation. However, Europe's bee-keepers are facing a number of challenges, ranging from the impact of pesticides and climate change to diseases and habitat loss, that are leading to a decline in bee populations and hampering the sustainable development of the sector.

The Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 includes mechanisms that could be used to support bee-keeping, but small and medium-sized bee-keepers often face difficulties in accessing finance and participating in strategic measures.

In this connection, I would like to put the following questions:

1. What specific measures is the Commission considering to improve access to European funding for small and medium-sized bee-keepers, especially in less-developed regions, within the framework of the CAP strategic plans?
2. Is the Commission considering action to promote the establishment of transparent and effective consultation mechanisms with representatives of the apiculture sector in the Member States in order to better involve stakeholders in the design and implementation of CAP measures?
3. Does the Commission intend to develop a targeted strategy or sub-sector policy to support bee-keeping in the context of the future development of the CAP, bearing in mind its importance for sustainable agriculture and the environment?

Submitted: 20.5.2025

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

1. The Commission recognises the importance of facilitating access to funding for small and medium-sized beekeepers, particularly in less-developed regions. While the implementation of the mandatory apiculture sectoral support under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans rests with Member States, the Commission is continuously engaged with the latter to ensure that the available support measures are effectively implemented and adapted to address the needs of their beekeepers effectively. Under the CAP simplification package ⁽¹⁾ presented by the Commission on 14 May 2025, payments per beehive will be allowed for agri-environment-climate commitments and eco-schemes providing Member States more flexibility to support their beekeepers.
2. The Commission supports mechanisms for transparent and effective consultation with representatives of the apiculture sector. During the drawing up of the CAP Strategic Plans, Member States were required to collaborate with the representatives of organisations in the beekeeping field and they continue to be actively involved in the development and implementation of apiculture sectoral support. The Commission also facilitates dialogue and exchange of best practices among Member States to enhance stakeholder involvement.
3. The continued support to beekeeping, together with the various policy initiatives to safeguard pollinators and their environment, will remain a key focus in the future under the CAP. The Commission will continue to engage with stakeholders and Member States to develop effective strategies to enhance the sustainability and resilience of the bee-keeping sector, considering its vital role for sustainable agriculture and the environment.

⁽¹⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/b595fc96-2988-44fb-86a5-4383cb070119/download>.