

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002324/25
to the Commission
Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)
(10 June 2025)**

Subject: European vegetable production in decline

On 2 June, the banner headline on the Foodlog news platform was: ‘European vegetable production is collapsing’ (‘Europese groenteproductie zakt weg’) ⁽¹⁾. Reference was made to figures from the European Statistics Handbook ⁽²⁾. Over four years, EU vegetable production has fallen by 7%. The article states that there is an undeniable structural decline in production.

According to insiders, the decline stems from a combination of factors, including extreme weather events, an increase in red tape, rising labour costs, labour shortages and restrictions on the use of plant protection products.

1. How does the Commission account for the decline in EU vegetable production and what, in its view, are the key causes?
2. What is the Commission doing to gain an insight into European vegetable production and into the precise combination of factors responsible for the decline in production?
3. What specific actions is the Commission considering in order at least to maintain European vegetable production and, if possible, to boost it?

Submitted: 10.6.2025

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

The Commission is aware of a decline in European vegetable production which raises legitimate concerns about the sector’s sustainability and resilience, especially in the face of climate change. The Commission monitors the fruit and vegetables sector through various instruments, including specific market observatories, expert groups and statistics notified periodically by Member States.

The Common Agricultural Policy supports the sector through various instruments, such as direct payments, eco-schemes, rural development interventions (e.g. investments, risk and crisis management, cooperation, etc.), and sectoral interventions specific to the fruit and vegetables sector.

The latter is based on operational programmes managed by recognised producer organisations pursuing the objectives of better concentration of supply, higher market penetration, greater bargaining power vis-à-vis business partners, swift adjustment to demand, improved competitiveness and quality of products, higher protection of the environment, and better prevention and management of market crises.

EU policy also supports the sector by ensuring the integrity of the single market, improving the bargaining power of farmers and strengthening farmers’ position in the value chain.

Under the common market Organisation Regulation, the Commission can adopt exceptional market measures when deemed necessary in case of major market disturbances or serious specific problems affecting the sector.

The Commission is continuously working with stakeholders and Member States to identify adjustments to the policy enhancing the stability and growth of EU vegetable production.

¹ <https://www.foodlog.nl/artikel/europese-groenteproductie-zakt-weg>

² European Statistics Handbook, Fruit Logistica 2025, https://www.fruitlogistica.com/fruit-logistica/downloads-alle-sprachen/european_statistics_handbook_2025.pdf