

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002531/25
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(24 June 2025)**

Subject: Common Agricultural Policy under pressure — the future of Pillars I and II and the coherence of the EU budget after 2027

Speaking to the Walloon Parliament, Budget Commissioner Piotr Serafin gave an assurance that direct payments to farmers would remain protected in the future EU budget.

This is easy to say, but it doesn't give the complete picture. Claiming that Pillar I will be protected without giving a guarantee for Pillar II is a ruse which undermines the coherence of the Common Agricultural Policy. It is the rural development funds which make decisions on investment, modernisation and the long-term competitiveness of agriculture.

The lack of a guarantee for Pillar II gives rise to legitimate fears that it will be phased out and that farmers will lose their influence over the shaping of agricultural policy. What have been announced as 'simplifications' are actually a smokescreen for shifting funds outside the CAP, and this is happening at a time when the cohesion policy budget is also set to be cut.

In light of the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm unequivocally that both Pillar I and Pillar II of the CAP will remain fully protected in the next EU budget, and that the funding for Pillar I will not be reduced?
2. How does the Commission respond to the accusation that the absence of any guarantee for Pillar II is not merely a technical problem, but an attack on the coherence and *raison d'être* of the CAP as a whole?
3. Is the Commission conducting genuine consultations (rather than simply the appearance of consultations) with representatives of the agricultural sector on this matter? If it is, what specific positions are farmers putting forward and how does the Commission intend to respond to them?

Submitted: 24.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(26 August 2025)**

The Commission has proposed a multi-annual financial framework post-2027 that maintains a robust Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Anchored to the EU Treaty objectives, the CAP will retain an essential role, providing a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, guaranteeing food security, ensuring market stability as well as support for rural areas and generational renewal while contributing to environmental and climate objectives.

Farmers and rural communities will be able to rely on all CAP tools available today and will continue to benefit from the support provided under Pillar II of the CAP, integrated into a single funding instrument.

This will also help lower administrative burden. Income support is guaranteed with stable and predictable support for farmers, while allowing Member States to tap into the National and Regional Partnership Fund of EUR 865 billion to finance other CAP measures, e.g. to increase connectivity in rural areas or to support rural entrepreneurship via Leader.

The Commission engaged in a collaborative approach to shape the next EU budget, including public consultations and Citizens' Panels, and held continuous dialogue with stakeholders, a Strategic dialogue on the future of EU agriculture ⁽¹⁾ and a Vision Conference ⁽²⁾ bringing together over 6.500 participants to discuss the future of the sector in the EU.

This consultation involved key stakeholders, such as the European Board for Agriculture and Food ⁽³⁾ and the Civil Dialogue Group on the CAP, whose views and expertise helped shaping the CAP proposal.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/main-initiatives-strategic-dialogue-future-eu-agriculture_en.

⁽²⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/media/events/shaping-future-farming-and-agri-food-sector-2025-05-08_en.

⁽³⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/committees-and-expert-groups/ebaf_en.