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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is closely monitoring the situation on the sugar market, which is stabilising after prices dropped following the record high prices of the two previous marketing years.

Regarding plant health, the Commission will present a proposal to simplify rules and streamline procedures of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009¹ end of 2025, to accelerate the placing on the market of sustainable plant protection products. This would help crops for which the portfolio of active substances has been shrinking due to the implementation of that Regulation's protection goals for human health and the environment. As announced in the Vision for Agriculture and Food, the availability of alternative substances will be carefully considered before deciding on any further ban unless the substance is presenting a threat to human health or the environment.

The Commission aims to maintain the existing safety net measures under the Common Market Organisation for market crises. Member States also have the possibility, through their Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans, to support tools for managing risks. In its recent proposal² the Commission made the use of such tools simpler.

On the review of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, an agreement in principle has been reached between the Parties and was announced on 30 June 2025³. In this context, the volume of the current sugar tariff-rate quota of 20 070 tonnes should be increased to 100 000 tonnes. This represents an 80% decrease compared to sugar imports from Ukraine in 2023. The market access is conditional on Ukraine's alignment to the EU agricultural production standards by 2028. The agreement includes also a robust safeguard mechanism to protect EU markets.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:fa7c3535-3189-11f0-8a44-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1672.