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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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In the past 60 years, including during COVID and the war in Ukraine, a series of instruments embedded in the EU policy framework¹ have ensured food security in Europe. The European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM)² strengthens the structure in place and the EU stockpiling strategy will further improve access to essential goods under all circumstances.

The strategy involves assessing the possibility of establishing virtual stockpiles and entering into arrangements with private sector operators for the provision of specific goods, in times of crisis. In that context the Commission will consider options such as virtual stockpiles of agrofuels. Moreover, there are mechanisms to mitigate food security risks in the EU energy policy. Notably, the Renewable Energy Directive (REDIII) foresees limits to the amount of biofuels produced from food and feed crops that can be counted towards the overall share of renewables and provides incentives only for waste-based biofuels.

Efficient stockpiling management includes practices for rotating and replenishing goods and using donations of items close to expiry. The European Social Fund Plus can co-finance Member States' support to food banks in providing food assistance to the most deprived. Such food may be obtained from the use, processing or sale of products disposed of in accordance with Article 16(2) of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013³ (Common Market Organisation - CMO), provided that this is economically the most favourable option and does not unduly delay the delivery of food to the most deprived persons.

To further enhance levels of preparedness and to ensure availability of supplies in times of severe crises, the Commission has just adopted a proposal amending the CMO⁴.

¹ The Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Single Market and others.

² https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/agri-food-supply-chain/ensuring-global-food-supply-and-food-security_en.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=COM:2025:553:FIN>.