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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Different causes explain declining livestock numbers, including market adjustments, low income and lack of generational renewal. Such decline entails biomass accumulation and risk of forest fires. In its July 2025 proposals for the common agricultural policy (CAP) post-2027¹, the Commission has proposed to increase coupled income support that can be targeted to support the sector.

In addition, the Commission's Livestock Workstream is addressing challenges and identifying tools and policies to build a long-term vision respecting the diversity and sustainability of livestock in Europe. The Commission will present a Strategy in 2026 to this end.

The CAP supports interventions for fire prevention, including management to reduce vegetation, such as grazing, and others that can contribute to slow the spread of fire, such as management of vineyards and agroforestry systems, construction of forests roads or water reservoirs. Forest management interventions are included in the Commission proposals for the CAP post-2027. Member States will be encouraged to include in their plans measures to promote extensive livestock and fire prevention.

National authorities can request technical assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) for capacity building, awareness and post-fire restoration, as well as emergency aid for firefighting and management. The Commission coordinates wildfire risk management peer reviews, including identification of good practices and recommendations for improvement (recent reports were published for Greece, Italy and the German Land of Brandenburg). Investments in risk preparedness, including wildfire prevention, are also funded by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Cohesion Policy Funds, and the UCPM.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0560>.