

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003260/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE), Dan-Ştefan Motreanu (PPE)
(20 August 2025)**

Subject: Scrapping of support for retired farmers under the future CAP

The proposal for the future CAP post-2027 was published on 17 July, when a deep-seated reform of this long-standing policy was unveiled, along with a 15% budget cut that raised concerns over the future of agriculture.

Article 6 of the proposal, which relates to the new ‘sustainable basic income support’ or the so-called ‘area-based degressive income support’ imposes, in paragraph 6, an obligation on Member States to withdraw this direct payment, which is of fundamental importance for retired farmers in receipt of a pension. Over half of all EU farmers are aged over 55 and actively contribute to our food security. Moreover, since pensions vary enormously from one Member State to another, it is difficult to ascertain whether these are such as to ensure a decent living.

As no mention is made of this measure in any impact assessment accompanying the new proposals for the period 2028-2034, how will the Commission ensure that this provision:

1. does not exacerbate the inequalities under the CAP, leaving even more people vulnerable?
2. does not result in the abandonment of the land and of agricultural activities, and ultimately to food insecurity?
3. Would there be any supplementary income support schemes that retired farmers could access?

Submitted: 20.8.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(14 November 2025)**

Agriculture as an economic sector has one of the eldest workforces in the EU, with more farmers over 65 than under 40, putting at risk the continuity of farming and affecting food security.

Postponing retirement hinders succession planning and modernisation. Young farmers face unique challenges to access land or high start-up costs.

Generational renewal in agriculture is instrumental to vibrant rural areas, enabling innovation, investments in resilience, and safeguarding future food security.

The European Parliament has identified this as an issue ⁽¹⁾ and the Commission, on 21 October 2025, has adopted a strategy concerning generational renewal in agriculture ⁽²⁾.

For these reasons, the Commission has proposed that farmers, who have reached the pension age and receive a retirement pension, would not be eligible for Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) degressive area-based income support by 2032. Member States may lay down a transition period.

Given the strong demand for land and for support for a new generation of farmers, the Commission estimates that this approach will create opportunities for new and young farmers and enhance innovation, without leading to land abandonment or food security challenges.

The proposal provides Member States with a robust set of tools to support intergenerational cooperation, including on farm succession, to ensure adequate support for elderly farmers. To note that the provision referred to in the question does not apply to the other CAP income support interventions.

In particular, access to the payment for small farmers is maintained (pensioners remain eligible) which allows Member States to maintain or reinforce such income for small farms which on average belong to the most vulnerable category of farms.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0376_EN.html — Generational renewal in the EU farms of the future — 19 October 2023.

⁽²⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a4574611-30d7-4f48-bfaf-58559eddfdc0_en?filename%E2%80%A6.