

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003444/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(5 September 2025)

Subject: Decline in demand for agricultural machinery in the EU

Demand for agricultural machinery in the EU has decreased significantly, which has affected both the manufacturers and distributors of such equipment ⁽¹⁾. There has been a significant drop in sales of tractors and other specialised machinery, which is liable to impact the modernisation of farms and hence the sustainability and productivity of European agriculture. This trend could be ascribable to high costs, economic uncertainties and the lack of targeted support schemes for technology purchases. There is therefore a risk that small and medium-sized farms will become more poorly equipped than others with machinery that is efficient and sustainable, and this will affect their long-term competitiveness.

1. What measures will the Commission bring forward to boost demand for agricultural machinery and help farmers to purchase modern, efficient and sustainable equipment, thereby maintaining the performance levels and competitiveness of the farming industry as a whole?
2. How is the Commission encouraging the Member States and its farmers to promote and implement schemes for the joint purchase and use of agricultural machinery, so as to guarantee fairer access to that machinery for all farmers regardless of farm size or income, hence helping to increase the resilience, attractiveness and competitiveness of the farming industry and ensure a more effective use of the financing allocated for such machinery?

Submitted: 5.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(30 October 2025)

1. To help farmers invest in agricultural machinery, the Commission's post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) proposals treat on-farm investments as an ongoing priority. Member States would include investment support for farmers and forest holders in their National and Regional Partnership Plans and would be able to fund these investments both from the ring-fenced income support and complement by the non-ring-fenced part of the budget. To ensure efficient use of machinery, the proposals reinforce the digital transition by strengthening knowledge systems and advisory services. Wider use of simplified cost options is also expected to make support more accessible. Beyond the CAP, legal persons within the farming community will benefit from other EU funds, such as the European Competitiveness Fund and the EU Research Framework Programme.
2. The relevant types of intervention currently available under rural development policy — especially for investments ⁽¹⁾ and cooperation ⁽²⁾ — allow Member States to support the joint purchase of machinery, according to legal and other arrangements regarding the entities concerned. In specific sectors (e.g. fruit & vegetables, wine), farmers and producer organisations may receive EU financial support for joint purchase of machinery ⁽³⁾. Member States can also programme stand-alone financial instruments ⁽⁴⁾ (e.g. loans, guarantees and working capital) or in combination with grants. Finally, Horizon Europe research projects such as Farmtopia ⁽⁵⁾ and Guardians ⁽⁶⁾ support small-scale farmers by making digital services more accessible to farmers.

¹ <https://www.agro.basf.ro/ro/stiri/stirile-saptamanii/scadere-cerere-utilaje-agricole-ue-2025.html>

⁽¹⁾ Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

⁽²⁾ Article 77 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

⁽³⁾ Articles 42-68 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 80 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101083541>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101084468>.