

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003957/25
to the Commission**

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(8 October 2025)

Subject: Selling at a loss and cuts to the common agricultural policy budget

In many Member States, farmers are being forced to sell their produce at a loss owing to the lopsided balance of power in the agri-food value chain. In France, despite national laws to protect agricultural income, the prices paid to producers remain below production costs. This is sending businesses to the wall and discouraging younger generations from entering the sector.

Against this backdrop, on 17 September 2025 the Commission presented its draft budget for the new common agricultural policy (CAP). It allocates EUR 50.9 billion to France over seven years, or EUR 7.3 billion per year — a cut of nearly EUR 2 billion on 2023. However, average agricultural incomes in Europe are plummeting, from EUR 61 332 in 2007 to an estimated EUR 44 027 in 2027, or -28% in 20 years. Slashing the CAP budget will exacerbate the crisis and jeopardise Europe's food sovereignty.

How does the Commission intend to ensure that farmers are paid a fair amount that covers their production costs, in particular by means of greater transparency of margins and regulation of agricultural markets?

Supporters ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 8.10.2025

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

Ensuring that farmers receive a fair revenue is a priority for the Commission, as outlined in the Vision for Agriculture and Food ('the Vision') ⁽¹⁾ and the President of the Commission's 2025 State of the Union Address ⁽²⁾.

The proposed ringfenced allocations under the National and Regional Partnership (NRP) Plans are a minimum of the funds that must be allocated to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Member States can increase this amount by tapping into the rest of their NRP Fund, to design the CAP approach that responds best to the needs of their farmers and rural areas.

With its proposal of 10 December 2024 to strengthen the position of farmers in the food supply chain ⁽³⁾, the Commission took an important step to enhance farmers' bargaining power through, for instance, enhanced cooperation and transparent and reliable transaction conditions via mandatory written contracts that include certain essential elements, such as clear and transparent price formulas or a mandatory review clause. These measures help ensure that farmers are not merely price takers and can negotiate better terms, thus resisting external pressures to sell below their production costs.

In addition, the Commission will publish end of 2025 its report on the first evaluation of the Unfair Trading Practices (UTP) Directive, together with a study on fair remuneration assessing the impact of certain national measures on farmers' revenues.

As announced in the Vision, the Commission will propose further initiatives, including a revision of the UTP Directive, to address the principle that farmers should not be forced to systematically sell below their production costs. The consultation process will be organised until Spring 2026.

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR), Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE), Julien Leonardelli (PfE)

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en#the-speech.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024PC0577>.