

EN

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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Member States apply different approaches to strengthen food security preparedness, including the establishment of strategic reserves. The responsibility for such reserves lies primarily with Member States, as this falls under matters of national security. The Commission does not hold a centralised overview of food storage facilities in the EU, and there are no EU-wide standards defining their location or accessibility. The Commission carried out in 2017 a study on storage capacities and logistical infrastructure for EU agricultural commodities which is publicly available¹.

To facilitate coordination in this area, the Commission is supported by the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM)², which brings together EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders to monitor risks, assess vulnerabilities and exchange best practices on crisis preparedness, including on strategic reserves of agri-food products.

Under the proposed revision of the Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation³, this mechanism will be strengthened, and Member States will be required to develop food security and response plans, including regular sharing of information on stocks of agricultural products.

The EU Stockpiling Strategy⁴, adopted in July 2025, aims to ensure access to essential goods, necessary to maintain vital societal functions, under all circumstances. Agri-food products fall within its scope. A key action is the establishment of an EU Stockpiling Network with the Member States, to promote information-sharing, best practices and strategic planning and to strengthen cooperation with industry in developing tools for data exchange on critical supply chains and stockpiling.

¹ https://publications.europa.eu/resource/cellar/0c44ec0b-2cbb-11e8-b5fe-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1.

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

³ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards the school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme ('EU school scheme'), sectoral interventions, the creation of a protein sector, requirements for hemp, the possibility for marketing standards for cheese, protein crops and meat, application of additional import duties, rules on the availability of supplies in time of emergencies and severe crisis and securities <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=COM:2025:553:FIN>.

⁴ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS EU stockpiling strategy: Boosting the EU's material preparedness for crises <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0528>.