

EN

E-004929/2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.2.2026)

As stated in reply to written question E-001630/2025, EU agriculture is market-oriented. Farmers' production decisions respond to consumer preferences and market opportunities.

Member States may support sheep milk sector through their Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans, including via coupled income support for sheep and goat farms in difficulty or through specific cooperation and sectoral interventions. CAP support is also available to farmers who apply sustainable production methods, including for products with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO). The Common Market Organisation provides tools to strengthen farmers' position in the food supply chain, notably through enhanced cooperation within producer organisations (POs), including the possibility for recognised POs in the milk sector to collectively negotiate contracts on behalf of their members.

In addition, the Vision for Agriculture and Food¹ foresees stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products, notably with regard to pesticides and animal welfare. Different work strands are advancing in delivering on this important principle. Agricultural products imported from non-EU countries must continue to comply with the EU's sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

The Commission will continue to engage with stakeholders and Member States through the Livestock workstream to develop effective policies that enhance the resilience of the livestock sector, and its economic, environmental and social sustainability. A livestock strategy will be adopted in the second quarter of 2026 as announced by the Commission.

¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.