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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Given the persistent difficulties faced by protein crop production in the Union, particularly due to volatile local supply and demand and agronomic challenges, the Commission proposes, under the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy, to recognise the protein crop sector as a distinct sector for the purposes of the Common Market Organisation¹. The proposed mandatory recognition of producer and interbranch organisations will strengthen the value chain, and support for sectoral interventions will have to be offered in Member States where such organisations exist. The proposal will also allow for introducing marketing standards to better inform consumers about the products' origin.

In the Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food², the Commission underlines the need to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce the EU's reliance on imported high-quality protein from a limited number of origins. This initiative, due in second quarter of 2026, will focus in particular on fostering domestic production of plant protein with the aim of strengthening the EU's food security and developing a more sustainable and resilient protein system. To this end, the Commission has proposed an increased ceiling for coupled income support that Member States may use to stimulate plant protein production on their territories.

¹ COM(2025) 553 final.

² COM(2025) 75 final.