

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000062/26
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(12 January 2026)**

Subject: Europe-wide farmer protests and the need for immediate interventions for the sustainability of the primary sector

In recent months there have been widespread farmer protests in many EU Member States, highlighting the deep crisis facing the primary sector. Farmers are complaining, among other things, about increased production costs, low selling prices for their products, unfair competition from non-EU imports which are not subject to the same environmental and quality standards, and the excessive bureaucracy of the Common Agricultural Policy.

These pressures directly threaten the viability of farms and the social cohesion of rural areas, particularly small rural economies and island or disadvantaged regions/areas, such as Cyprus.

Can the Commission say:

1. What immediate and concrete measures does it intend to take to support farmers' income and reduce production costs, taking the Europe-wide protests into account?
2. Does it intend to review aspects of the CAP that create an excessive bureaucratic burden, especially for small and medium-sized farms?
3. How does it ensure that imports of agricultural products from non-EU countries do not undermine European farmers through lower production standards?

Submitted: 12.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(14 April 2026)**

The Commission attaches great importance to support competitiveness of farmers. It closely monitors the market and income developments in the EU agricultural sector.

Besides, the Commission set up the Agri-Food Chain Observatory to improve the transparency in price formation and margins along the value chain.

On 7 January 2026, together with the Cypriot Presidency, the Commission convened an extraordinary meeting of EU ministers of agriculture to discuss the situation following the farmers protest ⁽¹⁾. The outcome document lays out several concrete actions.

The Commission recognises the strategic importance of agriculture by ensuring its continued support from the EU budget, with a budget of EUR 300 billion dedicated exclusively to farming, while providing Member States with the possibility to use additional resources to top up this secured allocation from non-ringfenced National and Regional Partnership funds ⁽²⁾.

To ensure affordability and availability of fertilisers, the Commission has adopted the temporary suspension of Most Favoured Nation tariffs, lowering of the mark-up for Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism from 30% to 1% and announced an Action Plan on Fertilisers for more medium-term solutions.

The Commission also announced a 'health check' of the agricultural markets to identify their key challenges as well as opportunities for their further development.

Simplification is a key objective of this Commission mandate. The Commission presented the Omnibus III proposal on the common agricultural policy with potential cost savings of up to EUR 1.6 billion annually for farmers ⁽³⁾, which is in force since December 2025. Further measures have been proposed for the organic legislation ⁽⁴⁾ and in the Food and Feed Omnibus ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/read_26_50.

⁽²⁾ This includes the ringfenced allocation of EUR 293.7 billion and the Unity Safety Net of EUR 6.3 billion (both in the NRPP proposal). Additionally, the President of the Commission proposed in letters to the co-legislators sent on 09.11.2025 and 06.01.2026 a rural target introduced on the non-ringfenced budget equivalent to EUR 48,7 billion and the use of a frontloading amount of EUR 45 billion that can be immediately mobilised to support farmers from the amount that would normally be available for the midterm review.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/2649 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards suspensions of payments, annual performance clearance and controls and penalties — https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202502649&qid=1767605831627.

⁽⁴⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/media/news/organic-rulebook-fit-future-2025-12-17_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/simplification-legislation_en.

An implementation dialogue on the challenges of implementing environmental legislation was held on 18 February 2026 and feed reflections on possible solutions to the challenges identified.

The Commission is pursuing a stronger alignment of standards for products imported into the EU. It has established the principle that the most hazardous pesticides are not allowed back to the EU, which has been already deployed in the case of three active substances, carbendazim, benomyl and thiophanate-methyl, and analysis is under way to inform future cases.

The Commission has also announced reinforced import controls. The number of audits carried out on non-EU countries are increased by 50%, and those carried out on EU Border Control Posts are increased by 33% in 2026-27.
