

EN

E-000360/2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.4.2026)

The Honourable Member refers to the judgment in case T-399/23 *ClientEarth et Collectif Nourrir v. European Commission* (29 October 2025). The position summarised by the General Court in point 109 of the judgment concerns Article 118 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115¹ which does not empower the Commission to prescribe to Member States how to design or implement certain interventions or elements of Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans (SPs). The Commission's role is to assess SPs designed by Member States, and if those SPs are compatible with that Regulation, approve them. The judgment does not provide any indication that the Commission would be 'powerless' as regards approval of the SPs. It states that the control by the Commission covers some specific requirements (point 112) and explains the basis for and the scope of the Commission approval of SPs.

While the proposed delivery model for the next Multiannual Financial Framework grants flexibility to Member States to design their National Regional Partnership Plans, similar to the current CAP SPs, it is exercised within safeguards. The proposal lays down common EU objectives that cover food security, fair standard of living for farmers, and vibrant rural areas. Furthermore, through CAP national recommendations the Commission will steer Member States' ambition to ensure attainment of common EU objectives. Rules related to certain ring-fenced interventions that are fully financed by the EU will ensure, among others, a level playing field among Member States. This aims at ensuring stability, predictability and commonality when it comes to the income support, while allowing for tailored approaches to meet national and regional challenges and opportunities.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj/eng>.