

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000558/26
to the Commission
Marko Vešligaj (S&D)
(10 February 2026)**

Subject: Excluding pensioners from degressive area-based income support — common agricultural policy 2028-2034

The Commission has indicated that, under the forthcoming proposal for the common agricultural policy 2028-2034, access to degressive area-based income support will be restricted. According to the proposal, pensioners will no longer be eligible to receive this support as of 2032.

Can the Commission clarify the following points:

1. Has an analysis been conducted to determine how many pensioners across the Member States would be excluded under this measure?
2. What is the estimated number of individuals expected to lose access to this form of support?
3. Does this exclusion apply uniformly to all categories of pensioners, i.e., to all individuals receiving any form of pension, regardless of the amount or type of pension they receive?

Submitted: 10.2.2026

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

This measure was proposed in order to stimulate generational renewal in agriculture which is central to the future of farming and Europe's long term food security.

Agriculture has one of the oldest workforces in Europe, with more farmers over 65 than under 40 years ⁽¹⁾, creating the need for urgent action. The European Parliament ⁽²⁾ also identified this as a priority issue to be addressed.

Delayed retirement of farm managers has an impact on succession planning and modernisation of the sector.

The Commission proposed to encourage a transition for older farmers, by requiring Member States to gradually exclude from Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) degressive area-based income support (DABIS) by 2032 farmers who have reached a pension age under national legislation and who receive a retirement pension ⁽³⁾.

But this applies only to DABIS and not to other forms of support under the new CAP. These requirements would apply equally in all Member States.

The Commission encourages Member States to ensure proper, fair and reliable pension schemes within their social protection systems. Beneficiaries of the simplified payment for small farmers would not be affected by the proposed provision.

The Commission has no data on the number of farmers that receive a retirement pension. Given the strong demand for land and the support for a new generation of farmers through the CAP, it is the Commission view that would create opportunities for new and young farmers introducing a new dynamism in the sector.

⁽¹⁾ Analytical Brief No10: Young farmers in EU agriculture : https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2789cbe3-01dd-41ca-bacd-f96fc3a014ce_en?filename=analytical-brief-10-young-farmers_en.pdf?pk_source=newsletter&pk_medium=link&pk_campaign=analytical%20brief%2010.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0376_EN.html — Generational renewal in the EU farms of the future — 19 October 2023.

⁽³⁾ CAP Proposal (COM(2025) 560 final), Art. 6(6).