

EN
E-000676/2026
Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.5.2026)

The Commission welcomes the opinion of the Court of Auditors and appreciated the opportunity of discussing it with the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

The proposed structure of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) builds on several pieces of legislation in force today and governing the current CAP¹. It aims at fostering synergies across policies for the benefit of rural areas, investment in farming and bringing simplifications for farmers (such as an increased use of lump sums and incentives) while providing robust safeguards to guarantee that the EU taxpayer's money is spent in an efficient, regular and transparent manner

Discussions with co-legislators are ongoing concerning a transfer of certain Articles to the CAP and common market organisation regulation proposals pursuant to a letter of the President of the Commission of November 2025.

The minimum ring-fenced budget for income support ensures fairness and continuity for the financing of the agricultural sector. The new degressivity mechanism should also improve the targeting.

Regarding the balance between commonality and flexibility, the proposals² contain several guarantees. Commonality is safeguarded by common objectives, a stable toolbox, common protective practices, steering by the Commission via recommendations and a common assessment procedure. The approval process for the plans is framed by deadlines. The Council decision (to be adopted within 4 weeks of the Commission proposal) should not make the process disproportionately long since Member States are also very much interested in a swift approval and implementation of plans.

Specificities of CAP payments regarding monitoring of expenditure have been mostly kept, while ensuring accountability.

¹ These include beyond the Strategic Plan Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115), the Horizontal Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2021/2116, and the Regulation on the Common organisation of the markets (Regulation (EU) 1308/2013).

² See https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.