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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.5.2026)

The degressive area-based income support (DABIS) proposed for the 2028-2034 programming period¹ builds on the experience of the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027 which already provides substantial flexibility to target the current basic income support for sustainability (BISS). Article 22(2) of EU Regulation 2115/2021² states that Member States may decide to differentiate the amount of the basic income support per hectare amongst different groups of territories in accordance with their socio-economic or agronomic conditions. Member States have to demonstrate that these differentiations by group of territories are justified on the basis of their needs.

The proposed CAP Regulation for 2028-2034, in its Article 6(2), also introduces potential differentiation by geographical areas for the DABIS and by groups of farmers to those who are the most in need. A boundary is set through the obligation that ‘the planned average aid per hectare for DABIS shall not be less than EUR 130 and not more than EUR 240 for each Member State’³. Today the average payments range between EUR 110 and 640.

Article 6(2) further lays down criteria that will ensure that the differentiation of the DABIS will be duly justified in the national and regional partnership plans before their approval. Indeed, it states that: ‘...the differentiation of payments shall be established based on farmers’ income from agricultural activity...’, and that the differentiation is made ‘on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria’. In the Commission’s view, the proposed EUR 130-240 boundary, the clear link to income needs as well as the justification that Member States have to provide will increase the level-playing field between farmers and regions.

¹ Art. 6 of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034 (COM(2025) 560 final).

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/2024-05-25>.

³ Article 35(3) of the proposed Regulation.