

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001174/26
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(20 March 2026)**

Subject: Abolition of the CAP stand-alone fund from 2028

It appears that, as of 2028, the Commission will no longer provide for a standalone CAP fund — the first time this has occurred since the Common Agricultural Policy's inception. Putting the CAP into a pooled fund will turn it into some kind of political slush fund to be used for example for the war in Ukraine. The announcement of billions of euros does not replace a clear ring-fencing. If the final distribution of funds is regulated solely through national and regional partnership plans, this offers no safeguard for agriculture, instead it invites political horse trading at farmers' expense. Planning certainty is thereby destroyed, reliability eroded and the agricultural sector is reduced to a supplicant. The opposition in the European Parliament and the warnings of the European Court of Auditors are a reflection of the risks involved.

1. How can the Commission claim that agriculture will remain a priority if, at the same time, it abolishes the stand-alone CAP fund?
2. What legally binding guarantees are there to stop resources intended for agriculture in a pooled fund from being redirected into other policy areas?
3. Why is the Commission denying European farmers a clearly defined, strictly ring-fenced, legally independent agricultural fund, when that is exactly what would be required for planning certainty and trust?

Submitted: 20.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(20 May 2026)**

1. A simpler and more flexible Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will be delivered through national and regional partnership (NRP) plans ⁽¹⁾. In the context of multiple pressing EU priorities to address, the proposal guarantees a minimum ring-fenced amount of EUR 293.7 billion for farmers income support. This shows a recognition of the crucial role of farmers and the CAP to build an attractive, competitive and sustainable agri-food sector.
2. The guaranteed amount in the legislation ensures stability and predictability for the farming community. The amount can and will need to be complemented by Member States in accordance with their needs, by accessing the unallocated part of the NRP fund. The Commission suggested a rural target of 10% ⁽²⁾ to strengthen support for rural areas. In addition, to ensure further resources are accessible for Member States as of 2028 for addressing the needs of farmers and rural communities, the Commission has proposed that Member States will be able to access up to two-thirds of the flexibility amount ⁽³⁾ in the plans, normally available for the stage of the midterm review.
3. The advantage of a simpler, more flexible CAP, delivered through NRP plans, is that it offers Member States increased flexibility, bringing policies together to deliver better results. The NRP plans are tailored to Member States' needs, while ensuring predictability for long-term investment and support for farmers and regions, and increased flexibility in a fast-changing world. The NRP plans provide a harmonised planning and reporting framework that foster synergies and a leverage effect across different funding elements, while supporting EU common objectives and priorities.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0565&qid=1753801752960>.

⁽²⁾ This translates into EUR 48.7 billion, or over EUR 63 billion if the Catalyst Europe loans are also included. Only the amounts dedicated by Member States towards rural areas beyond the ring-fenced amounts would count towards reaching this target (Proposal in the letter of the Commission President, November 2025).

⁽³⁾ Amounting to around EUR 45 billion (Proposal in the letter of the Commission President, January 2026).