

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001202/26
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (PFE)
(23 March 2026)

Subject: Is the Commission sacrificing French agriculture in favour of an *à la carte* Common Agricultural Policy?

The European Court of Auditors points out that the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2028-2034 would replace the two historic pillars with more flexible national and regional plans, which would create risks of fragmentation, loss of clarity, budgetary uncertainty and distortions of competition between Member States ⁽¹⁾. At the same time, a study commissioned by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development shows that farm incomes remain highly volatile and largely dependent on public support, the real value of which is being eroded by inflation ⁽²⁾.

1. How can the Commission justify a reform that allows it to pass the buck to Member States while refusing to genuinely guarantee a level playing field and stable support for farmers?
2. Does it acknowledge that this increased 'flexibility' is likely to lead, above all, to an *à la carte* CAP, in which French agriculture would be penalised relative to Member States that have different budgetary margins, political choices or regulatory constraints?

Submitted: 23.3.2026

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

The Commission's proposals for the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework (MFF) ⁽¹⁾ reaffirm the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as a cornerstone of EU policy, providing a cohesive and robust framework to support farmers, consumers, and the environment.

Flexibility rules are designed to complement — not compromise — the Policy's common principles. Stringent EU-wide safeguards, including common definitions and common EU rules, including farm stewardship obligations and performance monitoring continue to apply.

The Commission will also issue CAP national recommendations, steering Member States' CAP interventions to support common EU priorities while being tailored to Member States' specific needs and challenges.

These measures ensure that Member States' tailored solutions remain aligned with common EU economic, social and environmental objectives and support a level-playing field in the EU.

The Commission also advocates a collaborative approach to developing the National and Regional Partnership (NRP) Plans, incorporating early dialogues with Member State to ensure that national and local needs align with overarching EU priorities.

The Commission will rigorously assess Member States' draft NRP Plans before submitting a proposal for approval by the Council to see if the common policy objectives are met.

Crucially, the budget for farmers' income support remains secure guaranteeing predictability. The new MFF ⁽²⁾ introduces a new method ('deflator') to handle inflation challenges.

It keeps the annual price adjustment at 2% if EU inflation is between 1% and 3%. If inflation falls below 1% or rises above 3%, the adjustment matches the actual forecast rate.

¹ European Court of Auditors, Opinion No 05/2026 on the CAP for the period from 2028 to 2034.

² Donnellan et al., 'Support measures for farmers' income in different Member States in the context of inflation and rising production costs', PE 759.349, 2026.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0571&qid=1753801194712>.