

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001651/26
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(22 April 2026)**

Subject: European feed protein self-sufficiency plan

The Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 30 March 2026 confirmed that the Commission is preparing a ‘protein supply plan’ and a ‘fertiliser action plan’. At the same time, the Commission itself acknowledges that the EU imports plant protein products corresponding to 19 million tonnes of crude protein, while for oilseed meals it produces only 27% of livestock needs.

At the same time, due to the Iran crisis, exceptional support measures are being considered, as the price of nitrogen fertilisers in the EU was approximately 58% above the 2024 average in March. In Mediterranean Member States such as Greece, support for legume and protein crops could simultaneously lead to a reduction in dependence on imported animal feed and on expensive nitrogen fertilisers, especially in dry-heat conditions.

Accordingly:

1. Will the Commission include a specific Mediterranean component for legume and protein crops for animal feed in the ‘protein supply plan’ that is being drafted?
2. Will the Commission propose targeted incentives, through the common agricultural policy and coupled support, for Member States with permanent protein dependence, such as Greece?
3. Will this plan be linked to the ‘fertiliser action plan’ to reward crops that reduce the need for nitrogen fertilisers and enhance the resilience of livestock farming?

Submitted: 22.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(12 June 2026)**

The Commission's Protein Plan to make the EU protein system more resilient and sustainable, announced in the 2025 Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽¹⁾, will cover the entire European Union, while recognising that its implementation will need to take into account national and regional specificities to be successful.

The current common agricultural policy (CAP) already contains several instruments to support the protein crop sector and reduce dependency on imported plant-based protein, such as sectoral interventions, coupled income support, eco-schemes and rural development measures.

The Commission's legislative package for the CAP after 2027 and, in particular, the proposed amendments to the common market Organisation Regulation ⁽²⁾ place particular emphasis on protein crops by establishing a dedicated protein crop sector, strengthening producer organisations in this sector, making sectoral interventions for protein crops mandatory and providing the possibility to introduce marketing standards for such crops.

The Commission encourages Member States to integrate tailored measures into their National and Regional Partnership Plans, as proposed by the Commission, reflecting the diversity of agricultural systems and territorial conditions across the Union.

The Protein Plan will encourage farmers to cultivate protein crops, which is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enrich soil fertility through nitrogen fixation, thereby reducing the need for fertilisers. This is acknowledged by the Fertilisers Action Plan adopted by the Commission on 19 May 2026 ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ A Vision for Agriculture and Food Shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future generations, COM(2025) 75 final.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0553>.

⁽³⁾ Fertiliser Action Plan: Partnership for ensuring the availability, affordability and strategic autonomy in home-grown EU fertilisers, COM(2026) 310 final.