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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.6.2026)

The future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as proposed in July 2025, aims at improving the targeting of income support towards those farmers who need it most, particularly, smaller farmers, young farmers, and mixed farms. This would be achieved via the requirement to differentiate income support, the introduction of an increased and simple payment for small farmers and an ambitious proposal for degressivity and capping. Other interventions such as coupled income support, natural or other-specific constraints (ANC) payments, and investment support should further contribute to a better targeting.

Concerning coupled support, the Commission proposes a potentially increased envelop, and to extend eligibility to more area-based sectors such as grass and other herbaceous forages including in areas at a risk of abandonment of agricultural production. The targeted sectors or related types of farming would be defined by the Member States based on the difficulties the sectors undergo and the analysis of their additional income needs. As long as certain pre-conditions and limits are met, Member States would have flexibility in designing their support decisions (targeting, output value, etc) in light of local needs.

With regard to the proposed specific scheme for small farmers, this would be in the form of a payment per hectare or a lump sum. Farmers receiving such support would be exempted from applying the farm stewardship requirements.