

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Given the structural constraints recognised under Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹ and the sector's critical role in local employment, targeted EU support remains essential.

The programme of options specifically relating to remoteness and insularity (POSEI)² is the core stabilisation tool, ensuring continuity of support and allocated EUR 74.86 million for France's Outermost Regions (ORs) in 2026. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans (2023–2027) direct European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) towards innovation and diversification, helping producers' adaptation while safeguarding jobs.

The Commission proposal for the 2028–2034 multiannual financial framework incorporates OR support into national and regional partnership plans, ensuring an integrated framework and coordination of all resources dedicated to the ORs.

EU trade policy provides tools to address unfair practices and treats sugar as a sensitive sector in all EU trade agreements, either by excluding it from concessions or limiting these to ~1% of EU consumption via quotas.

However, the sector must accelerate strategic shifts, e.g. high-value speciality sugars, rums or use of renewable energy, to boost competitiveness and preserve employment.

Nine years post-quota, modernisation, efficiency, and diversification must continue to be at the heart of the sugar sector's strategy. The CAP supports this process, but producers must drive structural reforms for long-term viability.

The new OR strategy will enhance competitiveness by tailoring EU policies, funding to needs, and simplifying rules.

¹ http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2008/art_349/oj.

² The programme of options specifically relating to remoteness and insularity (POSEI) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02013R0228-20250627&qid=1780038981157>.