

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001910/26
to the Commission
Charlie Weimers (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR)
(8 May 2026)**

Subject: EU funding Abu Dhabi's royal family

Several news outlets have reported that subsidiaries controlled by the UAE's Al Nahyan ruling family and the Emirati sovereign wealth fund, ADQ, received more than EUR 71 million in common agricultural policy (CAP) payments between 2019 and 2024 for farmland in Romania, Spain and Italy ⁽¹⁾. Agricost, in Romania, which operates the EU's largest single farm, received EUR 10.5 million in 2024 alone.

EU taxpayers finance the EU agriculture budget of EUR 386.6 billion for 2021-2027.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider it acceptable that CAP funds can benefit one of the world's wealthiest non-EU ruling families through corporate structures?
2. Will it publish an EU-wide assessment of CAP payments for which the ultimate beneficial owners are non-EU state-linked entities, sovereign wealth funds or billionaires?
3. Will it urgently propose caps, ownership-transparency rules and recovery mechanisms to ensure that CAP money reaches EU farmers rather than foreign elites?

Submitted: 8.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2026)**

1. The Commission is of the opinion that support should go to genuine farmers whose principal activity is agriculture and has made proposals in this sense for the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) rules (see also below under 3).
2. Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 ⁽¹⁾ requires that Member States ensure that CAP beneficiaries provide them with the information necessary for their identification. The related information is made public. Categorisation of CAP payments by ultimate beneficial owners is not required.

For the 2027-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Financial Regulation requires the collection of information on beneficial owners.

The data will feed the information and monitoring system, and support risk assessment for selection, award, financial management, monitoring, investigation, control and audit.

3. According to the Commission's proposed changes to the CAP ⁽²⁾, farms above a certain size threshold set by Member States would not be eligible for support if agriculture is not their principal activity.

The Commission's proposal also includes a mandatory requirement for Member States to differentiate degressive area-based income support to the benefit of those farmers who need it most.

Finally, the total amount of degressive area-based income support would be capped at EUR 100 000 per year and apply to all holdings controlled by the natural or legal person, preventing circumvention of the cap.

These provisions will help to mitigate the risk that income support will go to foreign entities whose principal business activity is not farming.

¹ Telegraaf, https://www.telegraaf.nl/buitenland/woede-om-schandaal-binnen-eu-brussel-geeft-tientallen-miljoenen-aan-boerensubsidies-aan-schatrijke-koninklijke-familie-abu-dhabi/151185151.html?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter&newUser=true; The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/may/07/uae-ruling-royal-family-eu-farming-subsidies>.

⁽¹⁾ Article 59 (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02021R2116-20260101>.

⁽²⁾ Article 4(3)(c)(i) of draft NRP Regulation (2025) 565.