

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001968/26
to the Commission
Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE)
(12 May 2026)**

Subject: Compliance of CAP payments with environmental conditionality in water-stressed areas

An international journalistic investigation has documented that companies partly owned by the Emirati sovereign wealth fund ADQ received more than EUR 71 million in common agricultural policy (CAP) subsidies between 2019 and 2024, mainly for alfalfa cultivation in areas of the Ebro Basin classified as being under severe water stress under the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). This crop consumes between 8 000 and 10 000 m³ of water per hectare per year, and 98% of the production is exported outside the European Union.

Has the Commission verified whether CAP payments granted to these farms comply with the environmental conditionality requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, in particular regarding compatibility with the river basin management plans adopted under the Water Framework Directive in the affected areas?

Submitted: 12.5.2026

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

Eligibility for agricultural direct payments is subject to compliance with the Member States' obligations relating to good practices as listed in Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 (rules on conditionality).

This includes the compliance of interventions under the common agricultural policy (CAP) with Directive 2000/60/EC ⁽¹⁾, as referred to by the Honourable Member.

The guiding principle in the management of the CAP Strategic Plan is the sharing of responsibilities between the Member State and the Commission.

Accordingly, it is for the competent authorities of the Member State to ensure compliance with the conditionality requirements. For its part, the Commission is planning compliance audits of these bodies in order to check the governance systems of the EU countries and to assess how effectively those systems protect the EU budget.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0060>.