

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001984/26
to the Commission
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew)
(13 May 2026)**

Subject: Farmers' incomes and imbalances in the food supply chain

European farmers are continuing to see their incomes severely squeezed by rising production costs, inflation and their unequal footing in the food supply chain.

At the same time, many large retail chains and intermediaries are making considerable profits, while farmers are often being forced to sell their products at less than cost price. This has created the risk of bankruptcies, a drop in internal production and heightened food insecurity in the EU.

1. What steps will the Commission take to ensure a fairer distribution of added value throughout the food supply chain and to protect farmers' incomes?
2. Is the Commission considering introducing tighter checks on unfair trading practices, binding minimum standards for agreements between producers and retail chains, and new mechanisms for transparency in the setting of food prices?
3. How does the Commission view the impact of inflation and rising production costs on the competitiveness of European agriculture, and is it planning to take exceptional support measures for that sector in 2026?

Submitted: 13.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 August 2026)**

Co-legislators have recently adopted measures to strengthen farmers' position in the food supply chain ⁽¹⁾ by improving the functioning of the chain and ensuring a fairer distribution of value.

This includes clearer rules to support fair and short supply chains, stronger cooperation possibilities (including on social sustainability objectives) and greater transparency in contracting practices, notably through mandatory cost-related indicators in pricing clauses.

Commission services are working on the revision of the directive on Unfair Trading Practices, following up on a first evaluation. They are assessing potential regulatory gaps linked to emerging unfair trading practices not fully covered by the current framework.

Any future measures will be based on concrete and robust evidence and an impact assessment. Such measures will remain proportionate, targeted, and consistent with the common agricultural policy's (CAP) market-oriented approach and the internal market's functioning.

The Commission acknowledges that rising production costs harm farmers' and European agriculture's competitiveness. In this context, it adopted on 19 May 2026 a Fertilisers Action Plan which set the basis for two immediate deliverables, namely a targeted exceptional support to farmers facing high input costs through the agricultural reserve amounting to EUR 540 million, and co-legislators have recently adopted measures proposed to allow Member States to reprogramme their national CAP plans in favour of a new liquidity measure and more flexibility in how they manage their funds ⁽²⁾.

These two packages will offer immediate relief for farmers ahead of the next production cycle and help sustain agricultural production.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2026/1768 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 July 2026 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards a specific type of intervention to provide exceptional temporary support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the possibility to adapt direct payments allocations for calendar year 2027 and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards more flexible rules on payments of advances in response to the increased fertiliser prices due to the Middle East crisis, OJ L 21.7.2026.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20260706IPR46307/fertiliser-prices-meps-approve-support-for-farmers>;
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/07/13/council-adopts-targeted-measures-to-support-farmers-facing-high-fertiliser-costs/>.