

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002041/26
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
(18 May 2026)**

Subject: Farming crisis in Sicily: impact of price rises and the geopolitical crisis

Farming in Sicily is facing a severe crisis, which is being exacerbated by a combination of geopolitical, economic and climate factors that are jeopardising the sector's productive and social fabric. The ongoing water crisis and the effects of the green transition are being compounded by the fallout from the war in Iran and tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, which are causing a surge in energy, fertiliser and maritime transport costs ⁽¹⁾.

Sicilian farms — at a disadvantage because their island location makes them dependent on sea and air transport for essential supplies and the distribution of agri-food products — are bearing the brunt of these price rises. According to the markets division of the Italian Institute for Agri-Food Market Services, the meat and fruit and vegetable sectors are the hardest hit with production costs climbing by as much as 7% and 6%, respectively ⁽²⁾.

Faced with such dire straits, the Sicilian branch of the Italian farmers' confederation CIA-Agricoltori Italiani has called for 'urgent drastic measures' and warns that the closure of Sicilian farms would wreak serious economic, social and environmental consequences, entrenching the dependency on foreign imports ⁽³⁾.

In light of the above:

1. What measures will the Commission take to support the Sicilian farms severely hit by the price increases stemming from the geopolitical crisis in the Middle East?
2. How will it safeguard food sovereignty and the competitiveness of Sicilian agricultural products, including by means of EU funds for 2026?

Submitted: 18.5.2026

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

The Commission recognises the pressure farmers face due to high energy, fertiliser and transport costs linked to tensions in the Middle East and is working on multiple fronts to support farmers.

On 19 May 2026, the Commission adopted a Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽¹⁾, which includes short-term and long-term measures to reduce import dependency, boost domestic production and provide targeted support to farmers, while remaining aligned with the EU's climate and environmental objectives.

In this context, it will soon adopt an exceptional support for farmers facing high input costs funded through the agricultural reserve, amounting to 540 million, out of which Italy gets an important share. This will provide immediate relief ahead of the next production cycle and help sustain agricultural production.

To enable Member States to provide additional support, the Commission also adopted on 12 June 2026 a legislative proposal aimed at enabling Member States to maximise support available under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans (CSP) including through liquidity support, more flexible advanced payments and adjustments of direct payments for 2027.

In parallel, work is ongoing on structural solutions to reduce EU dependencies.

Also, on 22 April 2026 the Commission adopted AccelerateEU ⁽²⁾, a communication proposing several measures that will directly benefit consumers and businesses, including farmers.

On 29 April 2026 it adopted a temporary framework for state aid ⁽³⁾ to support the most exposed sectors, including the primary production of agricultural products.

¹ <https://www.allfoodsicily.it/ondata-di-rincari-ecco-come-la-guerra-in-iran-impattera-sulla-spesa-dei-siciliani/>.

² <https://www.ismeamercati.it/analisi-e-studio-filiere-agroalimentari>.

³ <https://ilsicilia.it/agricoltura-siciliana-nella-morsa-del-conflitto-in-iran-il-grido-dallarme-della-cia-tra-speculazioni-e-costi-alle-stelle/>.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=comnat:COM_2026_0310_FIN.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0370&qid=1777020622768>.

⁽³⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/2593/oj>.

As regards the CSP for 2023-2027, the Sicilian Region's Rural Development Complement has EUR 1.5 billion allocated to Sicilian farms to support their competitiveness and resilience.
