

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002139/26  
to the Commission**

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(26 May 2026)

*Subject:* Transparency regarding the final beneficiaries of CAP aid and foreign investment in European agricultural land

A recent journalistic investigation has revealed that companies linked to sovereign wealth funds and the ruling family of the United Arab Emirates have received tens of millions of euro in EU common agricultural policy (CAP) subsidies through very large agricultural holdings located in several EU Member States.

This situation raises questions about transparency regarding the final beneficiaries of EU aid, land concentration and the monitoring of foreign investments in strategic agricultural assets.

While the Commission has launched a pilot project for a European Land Observatory, it is asked to answer the following questions:

1. Does the Commission plan to make it mandatory to identify the final beneficiaries of farms receiving CAP subsidies, including when these are held through subsidiaries or transnational arrangements?
2. Will the future European Land Observatory be tasked with monitoring foreign investments in large-scale purchases of agricultural land within the EU?
3. Does the Commission consider that current CAP rules effectively prevent land concentration and the capture of subsidies by very large farms or financial actors?

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

For programmes adopted under and financed from the proposed multiannual financial framework 2028-2034, the Financial Regulation <sup>(1)</sup> requires the collection of information on beneficial owners <sup>(2)</sup> under all management modes.

The Commission proposal for the National and Regional Partnership Regulation <sup>(3)</sup> requires the Member States to collect data on beneficial owners of beneficiaries, including farmers (natural or legal persons). Therefore, data on beneficial owners of farms which are subsidiaries or transnational arrangements would be collected by Member States.

The ongoing Pilot Project for an EU Observatory on Farmland will provide the analytical foundation for this future Observatory. Its work includes assessing the data needs, availability, accessibility and gaps, particularly regarding land transactions and transfers of land use rights, price trends and market behaviour, changes in land use, as well as loss of agricultural and natural land.

Upon completion, the pilot's findings will inform decisions on the Observatory's establishment, shaping its structure and mandate, in full respect of Member States' competence in land regulation. Any future role in monitoring foreign investments would be defined at a later stage.

Land ownership lies within the competence of the Member States. However, concentration of land use currently does lead to high Common Agricultural Policy support amounts going to a small number of beneficiaries.

To address this issue, in its proposal for the future Regulation <sup>(4)</sup> the Commission has proposed the introduction of mandatory degressivity and capping of area-based income support which would in particular concern large beneficiaries which are deemed to profit from economies of scale.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R2509&qid=1782306972219>.

<sup>(2)</sup> Beneficial owners are defined in Article 3(6) of the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0565&qid=1781540097949>.

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034.