

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002176/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(28 May 2026)**

Subject: Protecting and supporting olive growers' income in the new common agricultural policy (CAP) in the face of climate crisis consequences

The climate crisis is causing volatility in the prices and production levels of olive oil in the Mediterranean, where 95% of the world's olive oil is produced. Greece is bearing the brunt of the impact, with producers facing increased irrigation and energy costs, reduced yields and pressure on their incomes. Between 2024 and 2025, the price of extra virgin olive oil on the European market fluctuated, ranging from EUR 3 200 to over EUR 9 000 per tonne. At the same time, production rose by 43% in Greece and by 21% in Portugal in the space of a single growing season, highlighting the extreme instability created by the climate crisis in the primary sector.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it intend to address the ever-increasing volatility in olive oil prices and production levels caused by the climate crisis, in order to ensure a sustainable income for Mediterranean producers?
2. Does it intend to look into the creation of specific support mechanisms or risk management tools for Mediterranean tree crop farming, in particular olive cultivation, under the new CAP?
3. How will provisions for investment in water management projects, irrigation infrastructure, agricultural research and innovative sustainable farming practices in the Mediterranean regions affected by the climate crisis be incorporated into the new CAP?

Submitted: 28.5.2026

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

Tools already exist to tackle market volatility in the olive oil sector. Article 167a of EU Regulation 1308/2013⁽¹⁾ allows producing Member States to lay down marketing rules to regulate supply and improve and stabilise the operation of the market.

Furthermore, in case of severe imbalance, the Commission may agree to activate private storage aid for olive oil, as it was the case in 2019/20.

Income support through direct payments, together with crisis payments for natural disasters, adverse climatic or catastrophic events, included in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), are also designed to help farmers absorb some of the consequences of climate change.

The CAP also provides a specific toolbox of instruments to help farmers manage risks. This includes support for insurance schemes, mutual funds and income stabilisation tools. These instruments are designed to help farmers cope with severe income shocks and production losses.

These tools will still be available in the CAP post-2027, and Member States will have greater flexibility in implementing and designing them to support the Mediterranean tree crop farming.

Under the Commission's proposal for the CAP for the period 2028 to 2034⁽²⁾, support will remain available for on-farm investments that enhance water efficiency and circularity, as well as water resilient farming practices which improve soil management and water retention.

Furthermore, the EU CAP network and EIP-AGRI⁽³⁾ will continue to promote knowledge sharing and innovative solutions in this field.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02013R1308-20260318>.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 560 final of 16.7.2025.

⁽³⁾ European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI).