

EN

E-002444/2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.7.2026)

1. The Commission is monitoring the effects of climate change on water availability, including for the farming sector. In its Vision for Agriculture and Food¹, the Commission highlights the importance of sufficient and clean water for a thriving agri-food sector. The European Water Resilience Strategy (WRS)² provides a comprehensive framework for enhancing water resilience in agriculture. In addition, the forthcoming European Integrated Framework for Climate Resilience aims to step up assistance to Member States in better anticipating and managing climate risk.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) provides a range of tools to increase water resilience in agriculture, including support for farming practices that improve soil health and water retention, investments to enhance water efficiency, circularity, water reuse and storage solutions, as well as climate resilient crops. This is complemented by support for innovation, knowledge sharing³ and advice. In their CAP Strategic Plans⁴ Member States are responsible for targeting support to the areas most affected by water scarcity and droughts.

2. In line with the Water Framework Directive (WFD)⁵, the responsibility for integrated water management, which includes climate resilience⁶, rests with Member States. The Commission recommended⁷ ‘that Member States ensure appropriate governance for water management by ensuring in particular transparent, secure, inclusive, fair and predictable mechanisms for water allocation, providing certainty on allocation priorities between categories of uses in case of scarcity, while safeguarding vulnerable and marginalised groups’ access to affordable drinking water and water for sanitation’.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.

² https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

³ https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans_en.

⁵ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

⁶ CIS Guidance 24 ‘River basin management in a changing climate, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/126657>.

⁷ COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 4.6.2025 on guiding principles of water efficiency first- C(2025) 3580 final : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=intcom:C%282025%293580>.