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E-002719/2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.8.2026)

Imported food must comply with EU food safety import requirements, which are enforced through rigorous controls and audits that have recently been reinforced¹. The Commission will pursue², in line with international rules³, a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products, notably on pesticides and animal welfare. The next multiannual financial framework proposals⁴ support agricultural innovation and competitiveness, notably via investments under the national and regional partnership (NRP) plans.

The future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) proposals⁵ – including for CAP implementing conditions and common market organisation – provide Member States with instruments to support agricultural investments. Both streamline rules for smaller operations via compulsory simplified cost options. Within the NRP, the CAP can leverage synergies in knowledge, innovation and skills to enhance the sector's competitiveness, sustainability and resilience, alongside vocational training, digitalisation, and other policy areas promoting digital skills and advanced farming practices. In line with the Commission proposals, farming should also benefit from the European Competitiveness Fund and the Horizon Europe 2028-2034, with around EUR 40 billion available to foster research and innovation, competitiveness, sustainability, resilience, and fairness.

The CAP proposal maintains robust decoupled income support, helping farmers adapt to changing conditions by stabilizing income. It incentivizes risk management tools to share risks for bigger losses, resilient investments to reduce risk, and compulsory use of transition actions to cover costs of a more fundamental change of production system.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/ip_25_2979.

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European economic and social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A Vision for Agriculture and Food Shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future generations, COM/2025/75 final.

³ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products, COM/2022/226 final.

⁴ EU budget 2028-2034 : https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁵ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-post-2027-next-eu-budget_en.