

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003091/26
to the Commission
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)
(22 July 2026)

Subject: A level playing field for producer organisations in the fruit and vegetable sector

The current CAP offers Member States greater scope to implement policy through tailored measures. All the signs suggest that the next CAP, after 2027, will continue this trend. However, the fruit and vegetable sector warns of a potentially counterproductive effect should the pendulum swing too far. More specifically, there is concern that the new CAP proposal for the period 2028-2034, through the expansion of national flexibility and co-financing, could lead to significant disparities between Member States. This could disrupt the level playing field, particularly for transnational producer organisations in which growers from different Member States work together.

Questions to the Commission:

1. How will the Commission prevent intervention measures at Member State level — resulting from insufficient national co-financing — from leading to distortions of competition between producer organisations in different Member States?
2. Does the Commission recognise the risk that growers will join producer organisations in Member States with more favourable intervention measures and conditions for aid?
3. What European minimum rules does the Commission intend to use to ensure a level playing field in the internal market?

Submitted: 22.7.2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2026)

The Commission has proposed that national financial support for sectoral interventions has to be compulsory (see Article 35(8) and (9) of the National and Regional Partnership (NRP) proposal ⁽¹⁾), including for interventions implemented by producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector.

According to Article 35(8), first subparagraph, of the NRP proposal, the contribution from Member States shall amount to at least 30% of the public eligible expenditure of the operational programmes. Therefore, it is obligatory for Member States to contribute to the financing of operational programmes.

It is up to each producer organisation to decide whether to join forces with producer organisations in another Member State by setting-up a transnational producer organisation.

Already, under the current strategic plans, operational programmes implemented by transnational producer organisations are possible in accordance with the national rules of the Member State where the headquarter of the transnational producer organisation is located and the organisation is recognised.

That Member State is also responsible for establishing the necessary administrative cooperation with the other Member States in which the members are located.

Minimum rules ensuring a level playing field in the internal market are captured by Article 35(8) of the NRP proposal.

Finally, the Commission proposal referred to above is currently being discussed by the legislators including the financing of fruit and vegetables operational programmes and the transfer of articles from the proposed NRP regulation to the two proposals ⁽²⁾, ⁽³⁾ concerning the Common Agriculture Policy.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 (16.7.2025 — COM(2025) 565).

⁽²⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards the school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme ('EU school scheme'), sectoral interventions, the creation of a protein sector, requirements for hemp, the possibility for marketing standards for cheese, protein crops and meat, application of additional import duties, rules on the availability of supplies in time of emergencies and severe crisis and securities (16.7.2025 — COM(2025) 553).

⁽³⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034 (16.7.2025 — COM(2025) 560).