

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003092/26
to the Commission
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)
(22 July 2026)**

Subject: Maintaining strong producer organisations as a driving force for cooperation

The European fruit and vegetable sector regards producer organisations as a success story. They strengthen the position of farmers, consolidate supply and enable investment in quality, sustainability and innovation. Within the fruit and vegetable sector, there is concern that the new proposal could weaken this role, as European objectives become less clear and other types of producer organisations from other sectors may gain access to the same framework.

Questions to the Commission:

1. Does the Commission intend to ensure that recognised producer organisations and associations of producer organisations continue to play a central role in the fruit and vegetable sector? If so, how does it intend to achieve this?
2. Will support in this sector continue to be prioritised for recognised producer organisations that actually pool production and organise sales? If not, what specific changes will take place to the detriment of the recognised producer organisations concerned?
3. Does the Commission intend to explicitly retain the current European objectives for operational programmes, such as production planning, market strengthening, quality, innovation, the environment and climate?

Submitted: 22.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2026)**

Producer organisations (PO) in fruit and vegetables continue to play a critical role in bringing farmers together, to aggregate the supply of its members, strengthen the bargaining power of farmers in the supply chain and connect them to market demand. The Commission clearly recognises this critical role played by producer organisations.

This is precisely why it did not modify in its proposals certain exemptions from competition rules for the producer organisations recognised under the common market Organisation (CMO) and the sector specific obligation of supply for PO have not been modified.

According to Article 30(2) of the CMO proposal ⁽¹⁾, EU support to the fruit and vegetables sectoral interventions would remain mandatory in Member States where producer organisations are recognised for fruit and vegetables products.

Objectives of sectoral interventions are covered by the specific objectives of the Fund as spelled out in Article 3(d) of the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP) proposal ⁽²⁾.

Finally, the Commission's CMO and NRPP proposals are currently under discussion with co-legislators, and their provisions may be subject to change in the course of legislative process.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0553>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0565>.