

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002223/25
to the Commission
Rosa Serrano Sierra (S&D)
(3 June 2025)**

Subject: Need for strategies to promote local food production and agriculture

Rural communities in the European Union manage natural resources, mitigate climate change and ensure our food production and security of supply. Our regions are drivers of progress, but they face serious and permanent challenges, such as depopulation, the price crisis in the agricultural sector or generational renewal. This is why the European Commission recognises the importance of supporting EU farming communities.

Despite this, some regional authorities prioritise the economic criterion in the public procurement of food services — such as in the kitchen canteens — without taking into account proximity or sustainability criteria. In doing so, they act to the detriment of small-scale economies that favour more environmentally and community-friendly local production.

Bearing in mind that the European Commission confirms in its ‘vision for the future of agriculture and food production’ that a fair and competitive food system must be created with affordable and sustainable food for all, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Does the Commission consider it important to promote local food production and agriculture?
2. Does the Commission believe that sustainability, seasonality of products and health criteria should be taken into account in public procurement?

Submitted: 3.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(31 July 2025)**

1. The Commission Communication ‘A Vision for Agriculture and Food’ ⁽¹⁾ stresses the link between food, territory and seasonality, reconnecting farmers to consumers. Currently, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) recognises the importance of short supply chains to improve the farmers’ position in the value chains. CAP support for cooperation can be dedicated to the promotion of short supply chains and local markets. In 2024, the Commission has also proposed targeted amendments of the regulation establishing a Common Market Organisation for agricultural products to strengthen the position of farmers in the supply chain, including through a better definition of short supply chains.

2. As highlighted in the Vision, public procurement can help to increase the consumption of local, seasonal products, and food produced with high environmental and social standards, including from organic farming and short supply chains. The Vision also stresses the role of local authorities in shaping food environments and fostering dialogue to improve the affordability and availability of healthy, high-quality food. The Organic Action Plan encourages the purchase of organic food in canteens and the use of green public procurement. Finally, the Commission Joint Research Centre is preparing a report on criteria for sustainable public procurement for food, which could provide support to public authorities to use sustainable public procurement and improve sustainability throughout the food chain.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.