

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-004414/25
to the Commission
Borja Giménez Larraz (PPE), Carmen Crespo Díaz (PPE)
(7 November 2025)**

Subject: Including the depopulation criterion in CAP 2028-2034

The Commission's proposal for the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework restructures the CAP, replacing the EAGF, EAFRD and Leader with national and regional partnership plans. This model cuts the funding by 22% — from EUR 386.6 billion in the 2021-2027 period to EUR 295.7 billion — and increases national co-financing to 60% in developed regions and 40% in transition regions (COM(2025)0571).

Although the Commission is considering revising its approach in the negotiations with Parliament, demographic criteria need to be integrated.

There are clear imbalances in Aragon, which has 28.3 inhabitants/km², compared to 97.5 in Spain and 109 in the EU: 70% of the territory is home to just 2% of the population. The current system prioritises GDP over depopulation, limiting the CAP's ability to sustain agricultural activity and tie populations to their areas.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission revise Articles 10 and 20 of the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for CAP support for the period 2028-2034 to include depopulation, ageing of the population and terrain among the criteria?
2. Will it ensure that the regions get to play an active role in the funds programming, in line with the principle of subsidiarity?
3. What concrete mechanisms will ensure that the future CAP contributes to territorial and demographic cohesion in these regions?

Submitted: 7.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(15 January 2026)**

Member States have to develop integrated National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP) to address their specific challenges while achieving the Fund's objectives.

This includes fostering the attractiveness of territories to support the right to stay, encompassing supporting strategies for the integrated development of urban and rural areas, generational renewal in farming, territorial services and infrastructure, and the creation of economic activities.

The Common Agricultural Policy proposal contains instruments that contribute to maintaining the economic, demographic and territorial cohesion of rural areas, including in less favoured areas.

In addition, the Commission President has sent a letter to the Parliament and Presidency of the Council suggesting a 10% rural target, to ensure continuity of investments in rural areas and to keep them viable and attractive.

Furthermore, the formula in Annex 1 to the NRPP proposal, used to calculate national envelopes, factors in the 'population at risk of poverty or social exclusion living in rural areas', which is an important proxy to the elements referred to in the Honourable Member's question.

The partnership principle is central to the NRPPs. Additionally, the aforementioned letter provides for stronger provisions to ensure the meaningful involvement of regions throughout the design, implementation and evaluation phases, including an explicit right for them to directly exchange with the Commission when managing regional or territorial chapters.

A 'regional check' would also require Member States to demonstrate how these authorities were involved, how representativeness was ensured, and how their contributions shaped the Plans, in line with the code of conduct on partnership.
