

Follow-up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on the future of agriculture and the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy

- 1. Rapporteur:** Carmen CRESPO DÍAZ (EPP / ES)
- 2. References:** 2025/2052(INI) / A10-0143/2025 / P10_TA(2025)0189
- 3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 10 September 2025
- 4. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
- 5. Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The European Parliament's resolution on the future of agriculture and the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) highlights several key concerns and priorities for the sector. The document emphasises the importance of maintaining a strong and independent CAP, with a dedicated budget that is indexed for inflation, to ensure the long-term sustainability of European agriculture. The resolution stresses that the CAP should continue to be a separate policy, with a two-pillar structure and a strong common character.

The resolution emphasises the need to support agricultural income, particularly for young and new farmers. The Parliament notes that the lack of access to land, credit, and other resources is a major barrier to entry for new farmers and calls for measures to address this. The Parliament also emphasises the importance of providing diversified, tailored, and independent advisory services to support young farmers and new entrants.

The resolution highlights the need to address the issue of agricultural income, which remains below the average for the rest of the economy in almost all Member States. The Parliament calls for a fair and equitable distribution of direct payments, which should be directed towards all active, professional farmers. The Parliament also stresses the need to improve the position of farmers in the agri-food supply chain, by promoting better organisation and cooperation among farmers and fair competition for EU farmers, and by strengthening their bargaining power.

The Parliament expresses concerns about the impact of climate change on agriculture, and the need for the sector to adapt to these changes. The document notes that agriculture is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions but also has the potential to be a major player in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Parliament calls for measures to support farmers in reducing their environmental impact, including the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, and the development of new technologies and innovations, notably through incentives.

In addition, the document highlights the need to address the issue of rural development, and the importance of maintaining vibrant and diverse rural communities. The document highlights the importance of providing adequate funding for rural development programs, including the LEADER program, to support local initiatives and projects that promote rural development and job creation. Specifically, the Parliament demands that the CAP should continue to compensate areas with natural constraints such as mountainous, arid, island, border, outermost, and disadvantaged regions.

Finally, the Parliament emphasises the need for a simplified and more efficient CAP, which reduces administrative burdens and provides more flexibility for farmers. The document notes that the current CAP is complex and bureaucratic, and calls for measures to simplify the policy, including the reduction of paperwork and the introduction of more flexible rules.

Overall, the European Parliament's resolution on the future of agriculture and the post-2027 CAP highlights the need for a strong and independent CAP, which supports farmers, promotes sustainable agriculture, and addresses the challenges facing the sector, including climate change, rural development, and agricultural income. The document emphasises the importance of maintaining a dedicated budget for the CAP, and calls for measures to support farmers, particularly young and new farmers, in accessing land, credit, and other resources.

6. Response to requests and overview of actions taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:

The European Parliament's resolution on the future of agriculture and the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy has been carefully considered, and its key concerns and priorities have been addressed in the European Commission's proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 (MFF)¹ and for the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the CAP post-2027². The need for an evolution of the CAP towards a more impactful policy with a stronger and fairer support for farmers is recognised as crucial for the long-term sustainability of European agriculture.

• On the need to have a strong CAP budget

The European Commission acknowledges that a strong CAP is essential for the long-term sustainability of European agriculture. In this regard, the proposal tabled in July 2025 ensures a minimum of EUR 293.7 billion for income support to farmers. At the same time, the Unity Safety Net, worth EUR 6.3 billion³, is also planned to stabilize agricultural markets in times of market disturbances. With this amount, the Commission proposes to double the amounts of the current agricultural

¹ [Multiannual Financial Framework - European Commission](#).

² [Common Agricultural Policy - European Commission](#)

³ [EU budget 2028-2034 For a resilient, competitive and sustainable EU agriculture](#)

reserve, so farmers have more certainty in the face of the new emerging challenges. In total, the minimum funding allocated to CAP will be at least EUR 300 billion⁴, providing European farmers with predictability and stability with a minimum budget to be fully programmed for the next period, which has been a central ask of the European Parliament.

Furthermore, the National and Regional Partnership (NRP) Fund also includes an additional EUR 453 billion⁵ available for Member States to allocate according to their priorities. Member States must tap onto those resources to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, including to further address the challenges of rural areas and the agricultural sector as needed and finance mandatory tools related to CAP such as LEADER, and others. Therefore, the resources allocated by Member States to interventions contributing to specific objectives of the CAP will exceed the minimum pre-allocated amount. In addition, as proposed in the letter of President von der Leyen addressed to President Metsola and Prime Minister Frederiksen, a 'rural target' of at least 10% can be established to ensure sufficient resourcing and a concentration of efforts in rural areas.

Additionally, the national contribution that is possible for certain interventions will further increase the resources available for the farmers and rural communities.

Furthermore, the Commission took into account the concerns raised by the European Parliament regarding the need to adjust the budget to inflation. For the first time, a mechanism has been proposed to adjust the EU budget annually to cushion against unexpected high inflation, ensuring that the value of EU financial support is maintained throughout the entire period. This mechanism will apply a 2% price adjustment when inflation is between 1% and 3% and adjust to the actual inflation rate when it's outside this range⁶, providing a stable and reliable funding framework for farmers.

Finally, the proposal respects the Union institutional balance as established by the Treaties and increases the role of both arms of the budgetary authority. In the letter of the 9th of November 2025 of President von der Leyen addressed to President Metsola and Prime Minister Frederiksen, it is ensured that the proposed 'steering mechanism' will inform the identification of policy priorities, including for the National and Regional Partnership Plans. The role of the European Parliament and the Council in this new mechanism should be

⁴ [EU budget 2028-2034 For a resilient, competitive and sustainable EU agriculture](#)

⁵ [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](#)

⁶ [COUNCIL REGULATION laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2028 to 2034](#)

reinforced in the Interinstitutional Agreement.

- **On the CAP overall architecture**

The MFF proposal preserves the specificities of the CAP while presenting an opportunity for the CAP to advance towards a more impactful and objective-oriented policy framework. The CAP proposal ensures continuity regards the toolbox that is available to farmers and rural communities compared to the current period. It contains all measures from the current two pillars and most of these measures fall under the ring-fenced amounts. Furthermore, and along with proposing a more integrated approach with the MFF/CAP proposals, a number of safeguard measures are included, which will help to preserve the commonality of the policy and thus ensure a common playing field across Member States. Linked to this, the future CAP will continue to rely on a set of common objectives, common set of indicators to assess progress on the ground, common policy requirements. At the same time, building on the experience of the last years, the CAP proposal offers a number of simplified possibilities, such as lump sum payments, simplified costs options or simpler rules, in the interest of Member States and European farmers.

The proposal aligns rules existing in the current toolbox to bring simplification and flexibility for better implementation and outcomes. This crucial objective of simplification underlined by the European Parliament will also be achieved through merging rules from existing two funds/pillars for CAP. It is important to note that the instruments of the current second pillar, like LEADER and other community-led initiatives, or even advisory services and other cooperation measures will continue to be part of the CAP toolbox, and it will remain mandatory for Member States to programme and offer the option for financial support to potential beneficiaries. The rules for implementation for CAP post-2027 will be in one single fund, whose common set of objectives will allow Member States to ensure synergies across EU policies and best value of public spending. Bringing cohesion and agriculture policies under a single integrated programming framework also offers opportunities to maximise synergies, including to better support rural areas.

Overall, the principle of a single rulebook under the NRP that includes specificities for the CAP and the merging of the two pillars will greatly deliver on the reduction of administrative burden both for the administration and for the farmers, which was also an important demand from the European Parliament and the stakeholders. This will also allow Member States to better adapt those tools to the local reality, while farmers will have more flexibility and more effective tools to deliver on environmental and climate challenges.

- **On the potential risk of CAP re-nationalisation**

The CAP post-2027 builds on its strong legacy and the experience of the current CAP Strategic Plans. The proposal addresses the concern raised by the European Parliament to maintain the common character of the

CAP.

The introduction of National and Regional Partnership Plans, allows for a more integrated approach, opening synergies with other policy areas through a common programming framework.

Within the new National and Regional Partnership Plans, the funding of the CAP will continue to rely on common specific objectives, common definitions, common policy requirements and set of indicators, as well as a common toolbox. Additionally, in the letter of the 9th of November 2025 of President von der Leyen addressed to President Metsola and Prime Minister Frederiksen, it is proposed to reinforce the identity and to safeguard the common character of the Common Agricultural Policy by integrating certain provisions now enshrined in the Regulation on the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP Regulation) in the sectoral regulation on the Common Agricultural Policy together with a set of definitions to ensure policy coherence while maintaining the benefits of the integrated programming and common set of rules within the NRPP Regulation.

The Commission will also make available country recommendations to support Member States during the preparation of the plan. This will be an additional safeguard to preserve the contribution of the CAP to EU common objectives, while giving sufficient flexibility to Member States to adapt their policy instruments to their national and regional situation.

- **On the need to ensure fair and targeted income support to farmers**

In line with the call of the European Parliament and European citizens, the new CAP introduces a fairer and more targeted income support system, prioritising those farmers who are most in need of income support, and thus promoting fairness across Member States.

First, the new system features a degressive area-based income support with an overall capping proposed at EUR 100 000. This will ensure fairness and equity and will allow to better target the financial aid for income support.

Second, the new CAP also proposes to target the farmers in need, which will be identified by each Member State, based on their income situation and criteria they define. Additionally, in line with the Vision on the future of Agriculture and Food adopted by the Commission in early 2025, Member States will have flexibility to provide targeted support to specific groups, such as young farmers, women, and farmers in less favoured areas, and simplify payments for small farms.

Third, the CAP post-2027 increases the maximum possible spending for coupled income support, giving Member States the flexibility to promote specific sectors and support sensitive regions. This is crucial to better support certain specific sectors, as it is the case of livestock. The new CAP proposes to have a mandatory coupled income support, with a maximum 20% of a part of the income support interventions. This could

be increased by an additional 5% to target specific sectors such as protein crops or extensive livestock that are considered beneficial for the environment and territorial development.

Finally, the proposal also takes into account the calls from the European Parliament to support risk management tools like insurance schemes and mutual funds and continue to provide a vital safety net for farmers against market volatility and disturbances.

- **On generational renewal in farming**

Generational renewal in farming is central in the Commission proposal for the CAP post-2027, in line with the strong call of the European Parliament to address the challenge of attracting young farmers in the sector. Each Member State will need to develop a tailored strategy, leveraging CAP instruments and synergies across policies, to help young farmers enter the profession and promote succession and renewal. The NRP Plans will need to include a "starter pack" for young farmers, providing essential support for their entry into the profession and ensuring that both strategic objectives set up by Member States are accompanied with the necessary tools in the starter pack.

To further enable this transition, the new CAP proposes phasing out income support for farmers receiving national pensions, with a sufficient transitional period, as well as introducing payments for on-farm relief services to support a better life-work balance for all farmers.

- **On the need to ensure conditions of fair competition**

The market-oriented character of the CAP post-2027 will remain. The CAP is the backbone policy for the agricultural community to ensure fair remuneration for farmers, agricultural productivity growth and food security for the EU but other fundamental rules for the farming sector are also coming from other legislations, notably the Common Market Organisation (CMO) legislation and the Unfair Trading Practices legislation. In December 2024, the Commission tabled a proposal to increase the cross-border enforcement of the Unfair Trading Practices. Also, in July 2025, the European Commission proposed amendments of the CMO legislation.

Indeed, the amendments of the CMO legislation propose to bring back sectoral intervention provisions into the CMO (as before 2021) to ensure more coherence with the other market interventions. This means that sectoral interventions will be financed under the NRP Plans but governed by the CMO legislation. The types of interventions covered remain unchanged, they will be compulsory in all sectors, apart from wine, with mandatory national contribution for greater impact.

The EU school scheme maintains its core objectives, improving efficiency and sustainability by reducing administrative burdens, simplifying financing, and prioritising EU products upholding high environmental and social standards. The proposal also establishes a distinct protein crop sector with the aim of reducing import dependency

by enforcing the recognition of producer and interbranch organisations and sectoral interventions.

New marketing standards for cheese and certain meats will harmonise definitions and extend country-of-origin labelling for meat quality and transparency across the EU, supporting the objectives set out in the Vision. Hemp rules will be harmonised to improve market function and legal certainty, boosting its bio-economy potential.

Finally, the proposal introduces a new crisis-preparedness chapter, mandating national food security plans and, where necessary, agricultural reserves while enhancing EU-wide preparedness and crisis response.

- **On the importance of rural development and adequate funding**

The European Parliament has emphasised the importance of maintaining vibrant rural areas. The new MFF/CAP proposals include the key tools to address the existing challenges of rural areas in a more effective way.

Firstly, the minimum planned support for the farming community contributes directly to economic viability of rural areas with the inclusion of tools of the current two pillars under the new ringfenced income support budget. The Commission has heard the concerns expressed by the co-legislators regarding the future of the CAP and rural development. Therefore, to strengthen the support to rural areas, it is proposed to guarantee a minimum level of spending for rural areas, a minimum of 10% of the budget allocation for the NRP Plans, excluding the amount already allocated to the CAP, must be dedicated to rural areas. This amount could include spending for rural areas in the outermost regions. The proposal requires Member States to program specific agricultural measures for these regions, which will have access to the resources from all policies covered by the NRP Plans, thus ensuring the continuity of support for agriculture in these territories.

Secondly, the integration of the CAP in the new NRP plans offers additional opportunities for Member States to explore synergies with the rest of the fund when it comes to access to services and infrastructures in rural areas. Under the Plans, cohesion policy will continue to support the development of rural areas, promoting measures such as the diversification of their economy, employment opportunities, environment protection, and provision of sustainable infrastructure and essential services, enhancing rural-urban linkages. This also ensures that a wider variety of target groups will directly benefit from opportunities related to the sectors of business development, energy production, connectivity, skills development, etc. These synergies will be even enhanced in combination with other MFF pillars such as the Competitiveness Fund, including the EU 10th framework programme for research and innovation.

Member States will continue to rely, among others, on instruments such

as LEADER, community-led local development initiatives, cooperation measures which have proved to be successful in the past years. The rules for these instruments have been designed in a way to be mandatory for Member States to program. Member States will continue to add a minimum national contribution, to ensure continuity with the past and provide stability for the future in terms of resource availability allowing to reach out to more project promoters. The programming of the national plan will be conducting for increasing complementarity of funding towards similar objectives and targeted tools to address territorial needs.

Lastly, to address the vulnerabilities of less developed regions in the EU, a minimum mandatory amount of at least EUR 218 billion will have to be allocated to these regions in order to close the development gap and help them to move together with the rest of the Union territory. In this respect, we expect that this will also benefit substantially agriculture and rural development.

- **On enhancing the role of the farming sector for climate and environmental actions through rewards to farmers**

As requested by the European Parliament, the new CAP gives important attention to addressing climate change and promoting sustainable, competitive and resilient agriculture, with a renewed toolbox which keeps a strong environmental ambition. The new CAP post-2027 offers appropriate tools to support farmers in their environmental and climate efforts, with a more balanced approach moving from prescriptive rules to more incentive-based measures while ensuring common character of the policy.

Firstly, the CAP for 2028-2034 period introduces the Farm Stewardship system with environmental and social conditionality requirements, to help farmers produce food while taking care of the environment. This system includes the current Statutory Management Requirements and introduces the implementation of protective practices, to be defined at national level, covering a number of priority areas, defined at EU level, notably maintaining carbon-rich soils, preventing soil erosion and the protection of river courses. These protective practices will be tailored to the needs of Member States and regions when it comes to the preservation and protection of environment and climate. The application of these protective practices can be also eligible for support through CAP funding if Member States wish to do so.

The CAP post-2027 also provides more possibilities to incentivise uptake of sustainable practices and increase the resources available to farmers by merging existing schemes and introducing a new approach to national contributions for agri-environmental actions that will expand available financial support when ecosystem services are provided beyond legal obligations. Farmers will also have more options for types or basis of payments including possibilities for lump-sum payments for transitioning to more sustainable farming approaches, such as organic, agro-ecology and regenerative farming. The new framework is much simpler, with more room for Member States to tailor support and ways

to deliver it to farmers' needs, reducing administrative burdens and allowing positive outcomes.

At the same time, it is important to highlight that a 35% climate and environment spending target has been set for the overall MFF budget⁷. This translates into a 43% minimum spending target to be reached under the NRP Plans⁸, demonstrating the EU commitment to advance with the sustainability transition across relevant sectors of our economy, including agriculture.

Finally, to ensure consistency, the Commission will guide the CAP's efforts through national recommendations, during the approval phase of the national plans, while relying on a solid performance framework defined at EU level to track results on the ground.

⁷ [COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future - The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034](#)

⁸ [EU budget 2028-2034](#)