



Brussels, 18 March 2026
(OR. en)

7366/26

AGRI 188
AGRIFIN 61
AGRISTR 21
AGRIORG 46
ENV 244
POLCOM 101

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Vision for agriculture and food: one year of implementation
- Information from the Commission
- Exchange of views

In February 2025, the European Commission presented its Vision for Agriculture and Food¹ (the Vision) setting out the EU's strategic direction towards an attractive, competitive, resilient and sustainable agri-food sector for 2040 and beyond.

The Vision is built around four interconnected priorities:

- (1) Building an attractive agri-food sector with fair remuneration and new income opportunities,
- (2) Enhancing competitiveness and resilience against global challenges,

¹ ST 6385/25

- (3) Creating a future-proof sector, aligned with environmental and climate goals, and
- (4) Valuing food and revitalising rural areas - all enabled by simplification, innovation, research, knowledge and skills.

Under the Polish Presidency, the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council held a series of discussions on the Vision. Ministers, in general, welcomed the Vision’s strong emphasis on food security by placing agricultural production at the centre of the EU’s strategic approach and emphasised the importance of dialogue with farmers².

One year into implementation, a number of initiatives have been launched to implement the Vision. Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Christophe Hansen, addressed a letter to EU Agriculture Ministers on 19 February 2026³, outlining the actions undertaken by the Commission in the first year following the publication of the Vision, as well as on areas where further work is foreseen.

Within the first priority, **“Building an attractive sector with fair remuneration and new income opportunities”** the focus lay on strengthening farmers’ economic position and ensuring the long-term viability of the sector. Actions have been taken to address Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) namely through new rules on cross-border enforcement⁴ and the evaluation of the UTPs Directive⁵. In addition, the targeted amendment of the Common Market Organisation (CMO) aimed at improving farmers’ position in the food supply chain⁶. The importance of stable income support under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has also been reaffirmed. Additional income streams for farmers are being explored, notably through the bioeconomy as indicated in the updated Bioeconomy Strategy⁷, and through environmental services such as nature credits, for which a roadmap has been presented.

² ST 9127/1/25 REV 1

³ ST 7277/26

⁴ PE-CONS 57/25

⁵ ST 16217/25

⁶ ST 7362/26

⁷ ST 16071/25

Steps have been taken on generational renewal, including the presentation of the Generational Renewal Strategy⁸ and the launch of the Women in Farming Platform, aimed at supporting the attractiveness of agriculture and the future of the sector in the EU.

The second priority, “*Enhancing competitiveness and resilience against global challenges*” has included actions aimed at strengthening the EU agri-food sector’s capacity to respond to geopolitical tensions, climate risks and market volatility. In this context, simplification measures have been introduced, including the CAP Simplification Package⁹ and the ongoing proposals on the environmental omnibus, organic regulation simplifications¹⁰ and the Food and Feed Safety omnibus¹¹.

In addition, market and crisis preparedness measures have been proposed, through sectoral initiatives including the adoption of the wine package legislation and the introduction of a Unity Safety Net and a flexibility amount in the proposed National Regional Partnership Plans for the next programming period. Risk management has also been addressed through instruments proposed under the future CAP, while the role of the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM) has been enhanced.

⁸ ST 14410/25

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2025/2649 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards suspensions of payments, annual performance clearance and controls and penalties.

¹⁰ ST 16969/25

¹¹ ST 17054/25, ST17055, ST17056 REV 1 + ADD 1 REV 1

Work has also focused on the external dimension of agricultural policy and crisis preparedness, including among others, efforts to strengthen EU trade relations, reinforce reciprocity with third countries and ensure fair trading conditions for EU farmers. The launch of a dedicated EU Task Force on import controls¹² aims to make import controls more efficient.

The third priority, “***Creating a future-proof agri-food sector aligned with environmental and climate goals***” has involved measures aimed at improving the future prospects, including the Water Resilience Strategy¹³, and initial actions related to the implementation of Carbon Farming Certification.

The fourth priority, “***Valuing food and revitalising rural areas***” has focused on actions aimed at strengthening the Rural Pact, updating the Rural Action Plan, and launching of Food Dialogues to engage stakeholders across the agri-food system.

Several initiatives remain under preparation or are planned for delivery in 2026 and beyond. These include the establishment of a European Farmland Observatory, currently in a pilot phase, and the revision of the UTPs Directive planned for 2026. Further work is also expected on competitiveness, including the preparation of a Livestock Strategy, a plan on protein supply and a Fertiliser Action Plan. Work will also continue on the development of the On-Farm Sustainability Compass, while further initiatives are expected to support farmers’ income, promote geographical indications and strengthen research, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture. In this context, a new strategic approach to Research and Innovation and a possible EU Digital Strategy for Agriculture are also forthcoming.

¹² See press release [IP 26 207 EN.pdf](#), communicated following an informal Ministerial lunch discussion based on a joint background note prepared by the Cyprus Presidency and the Commission in the margins of the meeting of the Council (“Agriculture and Fisheries”) on 26 January 2026.

¹³ ST 9932/25

Looking ahead, the EU agri-food sector is likely to continue facing significant challenges

including rising production costs, supply chain disruptions, geopolitical shocks and climate-induced crises. Further efforts may be needed to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of the sector, including actions that improve diversification of supply chains, enhance risk management tools and promote further the development of mechanisms such as the EFSCM. Greater attention may also be required for climate adaptation, water resilience, sustainable nutrient management and the development of bioeconomy and on-farm energy solutions. Against this evolving context, the implementation of the Vision may need to be further reinforced and updated to ensure that the EU agri-food system remains stable, competitive and resilient. Recent conflicts in the Middle East may impact the sector's performance through global supply chain disruptions and energy market volatility.

Having in mind the actions taken, proposed and possible future initiatives, and taking into account the Vision's four interconnected priorities, the Cyprus Presidency invites Ministers to exchange views on the following questions:

1. How do Ministers assess the progress made during the first year of implementation of the Vision across its four priorities?
2. Looking ahead, in light of recent geopolitical and other developments, how do Ministers view the planned and ongoing initiatives under the Vision and are there areas where further action may be needed?