Council of the European Union

Brussels, 12 October 2026
(OR. en)

14266/26

AGRI 742
AGRIFIN 174
AGRISTR 46
AGRIORG 124
SIMPL 223

NOTE

From:	Commission services
To:	Delegations
Subject:	2026 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement (Agriculture)

Delegations will find in the Annex the above-mentioned report.


European Commission
2026
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
Simplification, Implementation & Enforcement
Christophe Hansen
European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food

1. Introduction

This report outlines progress on simplification, implementation and enforcement from **1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026 of the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Food**.

The sector excels in health and safety standards, quality, sustainability and innovation, yet faces mounting pressures from geopolitical instability, weather related impacts, rising input costs, market volatility, lack of sufficient generational renewal, to name a few.

As foreseen in the Vision for Agriculture and Food, the Commission has continued to adopt initiatives to reduce strategic dependencies, reinforce European food security and contribute to a stronger, more resilient and more strategic European agri-food system. The Fertiliser Action Plan aims to support farmers facing rising fertiliser costs and scarcity, reinforce domestic production and reduce Europe's dependency on imports. At the same time, the EU Livestock Strategy, accompanied by the Protein Action Plan, will ensure Europe's valuable livestock sector remains strong and resilient in the long term. Against the backdrop of this summer's persistent heat and drought, we have worked closely with Member States to support the affected farmers and safeguard agricultural potential.

Reducing administrative burden, facilitating and accelerating processes and eliminating barriers in the Single Market all contribute to an attractive, competitive environment. To this end, further implementing the Vision, we are **simplifying rules, reducing administrative burdens**, and **improving regulatory coherence**, freeing up resources for productive activities. At the same time, it is essential that the **rules already in place are properly implemented and enforced by Member States,** without excessive and additional requirements set at the national level, so that they deliver in practice. Supporting these, we are advancing our **stress-testing of the entire agricultural acquis** by the end of this mandate, aligned with **the Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan for 2026 and 2027**, while **stepping up enforcement**.

I fulfilled my commitment to **visit all Member States** in the first year of my mandate, engaging directly with farmers, other stakeholders and citizens to better anchor EU agricultural policy in on-the-ground realities. I also hosted **three Implementation Dialogues** to gather hands-on feedback from farmers and other agri-food sector practitioners.

2. Executive Summary

The period between 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026 marked steady progress on the key policy objectives set out in the Vision for Agriculture and Food. Working towards efficient implementation and enforcement of EU policies impacting the agri-food sector – while streamlining them to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and boost competitiveness – has been a top priority for DG AGRI and myself.

Having **stress-tested the EU organic legislation** in the course of 2025, and informed by stakeholders' feedback, including the exchanges I held in the implementation dialogue on Organic Legislation on 10 November 2025, the Commission proposed at the end of last year a **simplification of several rules under the EU Organic basic act** to enhance competitiveness of the organic sector, while upholding its high standards.

Implementation remains a key priority. My focus was to ensure that **simplifications of the CAP framework were implemented swiftly at national level**, so that farmers could reap the benefits without delay. The latest performance reports from Member States highlight steady advancements towards the policy objectives, with most CAP interventions now fully aligned with the milestones outlined in their CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs). Beyond the CAP, the implementation of the promotion of agricultural products (guidance and launch of the call for proposals for promotion support) and the protection of geographical indications (guidance on registration and controls) is progressing, reinforcing the coherence of the EU's agricultural framework.

Moreover, the Commission has sustained its commitment to robust **enforcement**, ensuring compliance with the rules governing financial assistance for farmers and other beneficiaries. Particular attention has also been given to safeguarding fair market conditions, including measures to prevent unfair trading practices by dominant actors in the agri-food supply chain. In parallel, verifying the correct implementation of the EU's organic production framework has remained a priority, with continued monitoring of Member States' control systems to guarantee adherence to regulatory standards.

3. Delivering Results: Key Measures

A. Simplification and cost savings

We are advancing on our **multi-annual stress-testing** plan to examine complexities, overlaps, reporting and other burdens stemming from the entire agricultural acquis until the end of the Commission's mandate, which also fed the **Commission's Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan for 2026 and 2027**. At the same time, DG AGRI is systematically looking at all legislative initiatives for potential simplification and administrative costs impacts already at the initial stage of planning.

At the end of 2025, the European Parliament and the Council reached a swift agreement on our legislative proposal to **simplify the CAP basic legislation for the 2023-2027 period** (Regulation (EU) 2025/2649), making payment applications, certain requirements, investment and risk management tools simpler and easier to manage.

Administrative burden was reduced for CAP beneficiaries, notably for small farmers, owing to a combination of increased small-farmer payments, intended to increase the appeal of a single support that replaces multiple direct payment schemes, and reduced compliance requirements with environmental standards (GAECs), while organic farmers were deemed automatically compliant with certain GAEC's. A limit of one on-farm control per year was established as another central objective of this second simplification package, reducing the need for controls and checks on farmers.

Flexibility in the assessment of the GAECs has been recognised by abolishing the GAEC guidance documents, which had been prepared before the CSPs to assist Member States during the initial planning phase, thereby reducing complexity and uncertainty.

We followed this immediately in January 2026 with **corresponding simplifications to the secondary legislation**. This includes avoidance of duplicate reporting for plant protection products while maintaining the policy objective, reduced need for on-farm visits thanks to improvements in the Union-level quality assessment methodology for the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), easier administrative procedures for transnational producer organisations, fewer rigid rules on market withdrawals, simpler marketing standards for withdrawn products, and easier rules for hemp cultivation. These changes could **save farmers up to EUR 215 million annually** across all Member States. In practical terms, some **farmers could see some 20% reduction in the time they spend on CAP related administration**, freeing up time for farming rather than paperwork[1].

Thanks to the above-mentioned simplification package, the procedure for CSP amendments has been simplified too, with only strategic amendments requiring approval by the Commission. 21 Member States included certain elements in their CAP Strategic Plans (in addition to directly applicable simplifications). DG AGRI has assisted Member States in integrating these changes into their CAP Strategic Plans to ensure that the simplification benefits reach the farmers as early as possible this year.

[1] These savings are in addition to the potential administrative cost savings foreseen in the Omnibus III simplification proposal of the Common Agricultural Policy estimated at €1.58 billion annually for farmers and €210 million for national administrations.

Further simplification is on its way, including in the **organic sector, further to our multiannual stress-testing planning**, and drawing on consultations and interactions with Member States and stakeholders during 2025, including a dedicated Implementation Dialogue on 10 November 2025. The proposed targeted modification of the EU Organic basic act, delivered in December 2025 (COM/2025/780), aims to simplify certain rules to enhance the sector's competitiveness, while upholding its high standards. This includes streamlined rules on cleaning and disinfection products and substances, withdrawal period after use of veterinary medicinal products, rules on poultry houses and production unit sizing. It is estimated to **reduce direct administrative costs by EUR 47.7million annually**, of which EUR 45.8 million for farmers and other operators and EUR 1.9 million for administrations. In addition, it could **generate one-off adjustment cost savings of EUR 109.2 million** and **annual adjustment cost savings of EUR 90.2 million for farmers and other operators.** Alongside this proposal, I set out a roadmap for further actions in 2026 and 2027 as part of the comprehensive approach towards burden reduction for farmers, operators and public authorities. The roadmap aimed at reviewing other parts of the organic framework, notably secondary legislation, guidance and explanatory documents.

To increase market transparency and ensure that farmers obtain their fair share from the value chain, in 2025 and 2026 DG AGRI finalised the evaluation of **the Unfair Trading Practices (UTP) Directive** and collected feedback from stakeholders, including the Implementation Dialogue. This will inform the proposal for a targeted revision of this Directive, envisaged by the end of 2026 and which is expected, among others, to reduce overall transaction and legal costs through clearer rules and better enforcement mechanisms.

A political agreement between the co-legislators on the targeted amendment of the legislation on **Common Market Organisation (CMO),** reached on 5 March 2026, is an important step in delivering on one of farmers' key expectations: a stronger position in the food supply chain. These changes will also simplify the rules for the legal recognition of producers' organisations, thus making it easier for farmers to reinforce their bargaining position.

The Commission also adopted its first opinion on the implementation of Article 210a CMO on sustainability agreements, giving concrete guidance on what types of agreement favouring sustainability could be covered by competition derogations. It also adopted in July 2026 a comprehensive report on agriculture and competition over the period 2018-2025.

On 14 July 2026 the Commission also adopted simpler rules for EU agri-food promotion policy[2], reducing administrative and financial requirements for beneficiaries and Member States.

Further simplification actions included **modification of the implementing legislation for the representative prices for poultry, eggs and albumin**, adopted in March 2026. Under the new system, there is no longer a need to adopt an implementing regulation each month. Instead, representative prices are published through TARIC and on a dedicated public webpage.

Digital solutions can greatly contribute to simplification and burden reduction. As part of our digital-ready policymaking, DG AGRI have assessed 55 DG AGRI's legislative initiatives in preparation to ensure opportunities for simplification through digitalisation were grasped. In the context of the proposed rollout of the European Business Wallet, DG AGRI is working with DG DIGIT and DG CNECT, to pilot its use in agriculture, which will simplify information exchange under farmers' control.

Finally, following the Communication 'A Simpler and Faster Europe', the Commission has been **screening implementing and delegated acts**. Following the internal screening exercise of the acquis under my remit, I have considered acts to be prioritised and deprioritised for 2026. For prioritised acts we have focussed on acts (and categories thereof) that are legally required and on acts that are necessary for the achievement of EU policy

[2] Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 15 July. These rules will not apply to contracts for the implementation of simple programmes concluded before 1 December 2026 so not to disrupt current practice. More information can be found on https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/media/news/commission-adopts-simpler-rules-eu-agri-food-promotion-policy-2026-07-14_en

objectives, notably those needed to implement legislation, simplify it and provide benefits for citizens, business and administrations.

B. Implementation

DG AGRI continued to regularly assist Member States in **preparing amendments, managing, and supervising their national CAP Strategic Plans**, and to discuss, also with other stakeholders, diverse **technical and operational issues necessary for good implementation** across our **funding and regulatory policies**.

The Commission continuously supports the Member States in the implementation of their CAP Strategic Plans via the structured dialogue, bilateral meetings, meetings of the Monitoring Committee, expert group meetings, committee meetings, explanatory notes and the process of amending their CAP Strategic Plans.

The CAP Annual Performance Reports for financial year 2025 that Member States delivered in February this year combine a qualitative assessment and quantitative data, such as progress towards milestones, outputs achieved and the related expenditure. EU-level results suggest a positive trend, with performance improving compared with the previous year. In the second half of 2025 we continued the **Biennial Performance Reviews** with Member States which examined progress against the milestones set in their CAP Strategic Plans for the selected 22 'Performance Review' result indicators. None of the Plans required corrective actions. The Commission's report on **the operation of the CAP new delivery model** by the Member States to the European Parliament and the Council of 26 January 2026 (COM/2026/37) confirmed that the plans were on track and, collectively, have the potential to contribute to the Union's environmental and climate related commitments, even if quantification requires longer period.

The CAP network's seminar 'CAP today and beyond', held on 7 October 2025, provided a reality check to take stock of the **progress and challenges in the implementation of CAP Strategic Plans** underway through the reporting period. The participants examined six themes: environmental and climate payments, climate change adaptation, competitiveness, advice and knowledge tools, digitalisation, and governance. Timely payments, clear timelines and greater legal certainty were raised as enabling factors, as delays and administrative complexity undermine farmers' cashflow and their willingness to engage in CAP measures. Simplicity, familiarity, better adaptation to local realities were seen as key for the uptake of agri-environmental schemes, and for climate adaptation specifically, also clear communication of risks and economic and environmental benefits of measures. Strengthening advisory services and simplified cost options can close knowledge gaps and make CAP support like investments more attractive. Another factor lies in stronger coordination between authorities, more coherent policies, avoiding complex monitoring requirements, and more effective digital systems. The discussions on these topics further informed the bilateral discussions that take place between the Commission and Member States, while the seminar itself provided a forum for Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies and others responsible for delivery of the CAP to share examples of practical solutions that have supported implementation.

On 10 November 2025, I hosted the **Implementation Dialogue on the EU Organic Policy**. Drawing from their practical experience, the participants overall positively considered the policy, while they outlined several practical concerns and recommendations for the duration of equivalence arrangements with several third countries, and making rules simpler. Those concerns informed our December 2025 revision of the Organic basic act and the roadmap for the simplification of the secondary legislation of the organic policy. The stakeholders were also broadly positive on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production. Participants suggested building on achievements to date, especially in research, introducing indicators to measure progress, and linking the plan more closely to the future CAP. They urged stronger action to boost demand for organic products, including through public procurement, schools and hospitals, possible VAT reductions, and continued consumer communication and education to strengthen trust in the organic label and logo.

In the first half of the year DG AGRI focused on improving the implementation of the EU organic rules across the Member States to better support operators. We are now updating the implementing act covering the list of authorised products and substances in organic production.

On 18 February, together with Commissioner Roswall, I hosted the **implementation dialogue on the environmental legislation**, which focused on the Water Framework, Nitrates, Birds and Habitats (Nature) Directives, all directly relevant to the agricultural and forestry sectors. Participants underlined the need to reduce administrative burdens and regulatory fragmentation, take into account innovation and new developments, while ensuring predictability and legal certainty. We are now carefully examining the concerns and issues raised by stakeholders to support follow-up work conducted by our DG ENV colleagues. This input was considered in the evaluation of the Nitrates Directive, which identified potential for simplification and burden reduction for farms by adapting implementation in the Member States, and will feed into the stress testing of the Nature legislation and the ongoing Structured Water Dialogues with the Member States under the Water Resilience Strategy. In addition, DG AGRI took part in the reality check held on 7 October 2025 on forestry and environmental protection activities under the EU taxonomy.

The Implementation Dialogue on Unfair Trading Practices, that I held on 6 March 2026, highlighted concerns on issues such as the concept of fair price, the need to cover additional UTPs, and the degree of harmonisation. Discussions pointed to a shared need for clearer definitions, regular monitoring, and better enforcement of UTPs across the EU to support farmers and ensure fair competition. This was followed up with more technical exchange in the reality check on 17 March 2026. We are now examining the feedback, to help determine how to better address fair treatment of farmers and other weaker suppliers in the agri-food supply chain, and its good functioning. As part of our ongoing work to strengthen **marketing standards,** DG AGRI supported Member States in the transposition of the revised '**Breakfast directives**', on **jam, juices and honey**[3] by providing legal clarification where requested, working with Member States in the relevant expert groups, and verifying national transposition measures. For **jam and juices**, this will soon be complemented by secondary legislation authorising certain processing aids necessary to one of the new technologies to produce reduced sugar fruit juices, as well as a study on the possibility to regulate mandatory indication of the origin of the fruit used in the production of jams and juices. For **honey**, this will also soon be complemented by secondary legislation to lay down the methods of analysis to detect adulterated honey.

For **wine,** the wine package[4], has been followed by a revision of the secondary legislation. Two delegated regulations have been adopted and supported by Member States for the definition of crisis events and minimum information requirements for Member States in case of requests for crisis measures respectively in the CMO (green harvesting, distillation and grubbing up funded by national budget) and in the Strategic Plans (grubbing up). The rules on the vine planting authorisation scheme, oenological practices and labelling will also be adjusted according to the wine package. Moreover, several legal provisions will be simplified and clarified for national authorities and operators, facilitating therefore the implementation.

We have also conducted dedicated **surveys on poultry and eggs** to collect precise information on how Member States implement and control marketing standards, including on imported products. These surveys are crucial for ensuring the integrity of the Single Market, providing a clear picture of how common EU rules are applied on the ground. Ultimately, this work is fundamental for safeguarding fair competition and upholding high standards of quality and transparency that European consumers expect and deserve.

Since the entry into force of the 2024 basic act on **geographical indications (GIs)** (Regulation (EU) 2024/1143) and its secondary legislation, DG AGRI has regularly addressed Member States' and stakeholders' questions through clarification letters and exchanges in Expert Group and Civil Dialogue Group meetings. For enhanced transparency and user-friendliness, we published the following 3 documents: step-by-step guide on how to register a GI, a document compiling questions and answers received from Member States and stakeholders on the GI and traditional specialities guaranteed (TSG) systems as well as a guidance document on controls of GIs and TSGs and related best practices.

[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1438/oj/eng

[4] Regulation - EU - 2026/471 - EN - EUR-Lex

During the reporting period, DG AGRI finalised technical guidance to clarify the definitions of the new farm-level data required under the new framework for the **Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN)** and to address Member States' questions. It also updated the IT tool that will enable FSDN data transmission from the Member States to the Commission.

Through targeted outreach and practical guidance, we encouraged potential **applicants for promotion support** by highlighting examples of export diversification programmes, including those run by smaller organisations.

In July, DG AGRI provided a document to Member States with a targeted package of measures to simplify the CAP assurance framework, improve legal certainty and reduce administrative burden within the existing legal rules. Implementation is ongoing with a full roll-out expected by the end of 2026.

C. Enforcement

The Commission has continued to ensure the correct application of the **rules governing CAP financial support** for farmers and other beneficiaries. In 2026, DG AGRI began implementing its **Multi-Annual Work Programme for years 2026 and 2027**, including 101 audit missions and up to 70 desk audits, based on DG AGRI's updated Assurance and Audit strategy approved in 2025. The update draws on experience gained during the first two years of implementation of the current CAP.

DG AGRI has also dealt with **complaints relating to the implementation of CAP financial support**, where relevant by referring the case to Member States who share the handling of individual complaints falling within the scope of their CAP Strategic Plans according to Art 59(7) of the Horizontal Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2021/2116).

Regarding the **monitoring of the implementation and application of other regulations than those governing CAP financial support,** DG AGRI has continued supervising Member States to ensure that they fulfil their responsibilities to carry out adequate controls in particular regarding the **EU regulation on organic production**. For instance, the final audit reports on the control systems for organic imports in DK, RO, CY and LUX were completed. The Commission has also, through a number of audits, evaluated the quality and effectiveness of the controls carried out by control authorities or control bodies in third countries.

In line with the Union's objectives to strengthen the Single Market, a particular emphasis has been put on protecting the **free movement of agricultural and food products, by tackling barriers and preventing unlawful gold plating, to avoid a fragmentation of the Single market which would be damaging for farmers and citizens.** As a **preventive** measure, DG AGRI has screened around 150 technical regulations notified by Member States under the Transparency Directive (Directive (EU) 2015/1535), and subsequently prepared 18 Commission decisions (detailed opinions or comments) in reaction to Member States' draft legislation that would have **hampered, to a different extent, the functioning of the Single market or created gold plating contrary to EU law** (for example when transposing Directive 2024/1438 amending the Breakfast directives or when imposing additional non-harmonised marketing rules on agricultural products). The Commission has in particular continued to draw the attention of Member States, by adopting 8 decisions under Directive 2015/1535, to the need to ensure, whenever they put in place national or regional quality schemes, that these schemes be open to producers from other Member States, ensure a specific quality of the covered products or do not jeopardise the exclusive remit of the legislation on geographical indications (Regulation (EU) 2024/1143).

Enforcement of the Single market rules has also continued to take place through the **pre-infringement dialogue** mechanism on the same issue of quality schemes liable to create barriers to the internal market (with Spain). On the other hand, following the Commission's **enforcement action** regarding the Slovakian notification scheme for export of certain grains and seeds which was creating problems for the Single market, Slovakia has brought its national law in line with EU rules therefore allowing the closure of the infringement procedure in June 2026.

At the same time the **Court of Justice of the EU** delivered in June 2026 a judgement (C-658/24) clarifying that the Hungarian scheme imposing mandatory price reductions on large food retailers is contrary to Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, as it undermines fair competition and is not proportionate to the objective to combat inflation and the protection of disadvantaged consumers.

Finally, an effective functioning of the Single market with an even playing field for farmers and agri-food producers is also ensured by on time and correct **transposition of directives.** The Commission has launched **11 infringement procedures** against Member States for failure to transpose Directive (EU) 2024/1438 amending the Breakfast directives. DG AGRI has also continued to control the proper transposition of EU rules protecting European farmers against unfair trading practices by larger buyers in the food supply chain (Directive (EU) 2019/633) through the pursuit of pre-infringement dialogues with 12 Member States.

For more information, a Public Register illustrates the Commission's enforcement activities and Member States' compliance with EU law in general through interactive maps and customisable graphs https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/home/en.

D. Way forward

From the outset, my objective has been to work closely with farmers, Member States and other stakeholders, listening carefully and remaining firmly focused on delivering tangible results, whether through our funding or regulatory policies – ensuring that simplification reduces unnecessary burdens, while robust enforcement guarantees fairness, legal certainty and effective implementation on the ground.

The Commission's **Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan,** for years 2026 and 2027, builds on **stress-testing plans**, and we will continue to advance and deliver a simpler and more effective framework.

This includes completing actions set out in our 2025 **organic roadmap**, work towards the **review of the Unfair Trading Practices Directive** planned for the end of 2026. I also plan to hold an Implementation Dialogue to discuss the implementation of the Union's Geographical Indications' policy for agricultural products and collect insights from the experience gathered since its enactment. **Food Dialogues** will continue, focusing on different topics, including simplification and competitiveness of the wider agri-food value chain. We are also preparing guidance for Member States on **mixing categories of olive oil** and will continue collaborate with Member States and experts on improving the control and traceability systems.

My services will pay a particular attention to Member States legislation that might be hampering the functioning of the Single market, in case of unlawful 'gold-plating' or in case of deficiencies in Member States' application of regulations (for example in case of systemic weaknesses in the quality and effectiveness of the control system for organic production and geographical indications).

We will also continue to work closely with colleagues across the Commission to support improvements in **policy areas and legislation outside my portfolio**, where these have direct or indirect **implications for the agricultural sector**.

DG AGRI will also keep working closely with the Member States and support them in effective and efficient **implementation of the current CAP**, with a focus on the simplification measures for example to unlock the full potential of the Area Monitoring System, and other relevant agri-food policies. We will also implement the actions developed to **simplify assurance**, improve communication and guidance. At the same time, drawing on the experience gained, the issues encountered, and the solutions explored during the current programming period, we will continue to prepare for the CAP post 2028 to ensure its successful rollout.

In case of shortcomings in the implementation or application of the CAP rules, the Commission will take the steps to achieve compliance, by excluding the relevant amounts from EU financing, when there is a risk to the CAP Funds, or by pre-infringement dialogues and, in case it becomes necessary, or by launching infringement procedures.

Simpler fund management and delivery mechanisms are also part of the proposed CAP for the 2028-2034 period within the future National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs), incorporating and enhancing the solutions we developed together under the current CAP programme, with a better use of synergies and complementarities across various funding instruments. While engaging with the European Parliament and the Council in negotiations on these files, my services have been working closely with Member States to pave the way for its successful implementation from day one, paying close attention to the lessons learned from the implementation in the current period.

Annexes: examples

Simplification:

A) **CAP 2023-2027: Integrated administration and control system (IACS)** as regards the **scope of the quality assessments** of the geo-spatial application system (GSA) and of the area monitoring system (AMS) (amendment of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1172):

The AMS and GSA quality assessment, from 2026, will cover only eligibility conditions that can actually be monitored remotely using mainly Copernicus satellite data. In addition, Member States can now bundle corrective action on Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), GSA and AMS. These changes will reduce the need for physical farm visits, freeing up farmers' time, and reduce the associated workload for national administrations.

B) **CAP 2023-2027: Integrated administration and control system (IACS)** as regards the **obligation to record the use of plant protection products** in the geo-spatial aid application (amendment of Implementing Regulation 2022/1173):

Farmers will no longer be required to record their use of plant protection products on parcels under CAP interventions for sustainable and reduced use of pesticides (eco-schemes and environmental, climate-related and other management commitments) in the geospatial application system. This change avoids duplicate reporting while maintaining the original policy objectives. This simplification is expected to reduce the burden for farmers regarding the time spent performing this task and allows more time to be spent on farm management.

C) **A targeted amendment of the organic basic regulation** (COM/2025/780)

Among others, the proposal aims to reduce complexities for example by:

- Allowing operators to use any products and substances available on the market that are suited to cleaning and disinfecting processing and storage facilities for use in organic production. This will reduce the cost of complying with the applicable food safety and hygiene standards for all EU operators;
- Streamlining conditions for exempting smaller operators from the organic operator certificate. This will avoid any disproportionate burden on smaller sellers and make the marketing of organic products easier;
- Streamlining requirements on the withdrawal period after veterinary treatments, which created an unnecessary burden particularly in cases where the withdrawal period specified in the medicinal products is zero. This will increase the earnings of the organic operators concerned and will allow organic products to be marketed that, otherwise, would be either redirected to other supply chains or might be destroyed, with consequent practical complications for operators.

- Targeted changes to legislation that regulates the **Common Market Organisation of agricultural products (CMO) and other related provisions of the EU's agriculture policy**.

Improvements of the legislation for the **CMO** will strengthen farmers' position in the food supply chain and restore trust between actors in the agri-food supply chain. In particular, these measures will strengthen farmers' position in negotiations with processors and other actors, ensuring that added value of the products is shared more fairly across the entire supply chain. Improvements concern the contractual framework, the rules on horizontal cooperation between farmers in producers' organisations and voluntary initiatives on fair or short supply chains and social sustainability agreements.

- Adoption in March 2026 of Council and European Parliament Regulation (EC) No 2026/697 on **cooperation among enforcement authorities responsible for the enforcement of the UTP Directive**.

Such new Regulation provides clear and simple rules for enforcement authorities to ensure their duty of cooperation against unfair trading practices in cross border cases. This regulation will improve enforcement and also simplify the work of enforcement authorities for whom procedures are now clarified in such cases.

Implementation:

The Evaluation Helpdesk of the EU CAP Network supports Managing Authorities in delivering robust, evidence-based evaluations of their CAP Strategic Plans through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and guidance. https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/publications/evaluating-green-architecture-cap-strategic-plans_enhttps://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/good-practice-workshop-use-evaluations-improving-policy-and-ex-ante-assessments_en

In February 2026, the Evaluation Helpdesk of the EU CAP Network published guidelines on the evaluation of the green architecture of CAP Strategic Plans, intended to support Managing Authorities and evaluators in assessing how CAP instruments work together to address environmental and climate objectives, notably climate action, natural resources and biodiversity. These guidelines help improve the structure and coherence of evaluation planning by clarifying scope, terminology and the phases of the evaluation process, enabling more timely and useful evidence for implementation and policy preparation.

In parallel, on 2–3 June 2026, the Evaluation Helpdesk organised the Good Practice Workshop in Helsinki on the use of evaluations for improving current policy and feeding into ex ante assessment processes for the next CAP. The workshop showed that evaluation results are most useful when integrated into governance and decision-making through formal follow-up mechanisms, clear responsibilities, recommendation-tracking systems and regular dialogue between evaluators and policymakers. It also stressed the value of discussing interim findings early, so evidence can help adjust current CAP implementation and inform future policy design.

More broadly, the systematic use of evaluation evidence can strengthen preparation for the next policy cycle under the next MFF and the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs) by helping identify needs, select effective interventions and streamline delivery arrangements.