



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B – Sustainability
The Director

Brussels
AGRI.B.1/DS

Mr Boštjan Noč
President of the European
Beekeeping Association
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Dear Mr Noč,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 January 2026 to Commissioner Hansen, requesting clarification on the introduction of CAP payments per beehive under eco-schemes and agri-environment-climate commitments, which was mentioned by the Commissioner during his visit to Slovenia on 24 May 2025 for World Bee Day. You also ask at what stage this type of payment would be introduced and when and how these would be implemented at national level.

The support you mention refers to a newly introduced amendment to the CAP strategic plan regulation⁽¹⁾, allowing Member States to grant support in the form of an annual payment per beehive to active farmers under eco-schemes under Article 31 of that Regulation, or a payment per beehive to beneficiaries under agri-environment-climate commitments, including organic farming, under Article 70 of that Regulation. The definition of “beehive” set out in Article 36 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126 applies to this form of support.

With this change, support can not only be granted per hectare or in the form of a lump sum, but also per beehive. This will simplify the calculation of support for environmental commitments related to apiculture.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013, [OJ L 435 6.12.2021, p. 1.](#)

This change is one of the amendments introduced by Regulation (EU) 2025/2649⁽²⁾ to simplify the rules of CAP Strategic Plans and reduce the administrative burden for farmers and national administrations. This regulation entered into force on 1 January 2026.

Thus, Member States may already introduce in their CAP Strategic Plans, eco-schemes or agri-environment-climate commitments for beekeepers who undertake voluntary commitments in favour of the environment, for biodiversity and pollination. Support for these commitments can be calculated and paid per beehive. The decision to introduce such interventions rests with Member States. They are also responsible for the design of those interventions, including rules on eligible beneficiaries, supported commitments, and support rates per beehive.

In the current CAP Strategic Plans 2023-2027, fourteen Member States have specific agri-environment-climate interventions for beekeepers ⁽³⁾, including for organic beekeeping. One of these fourteen is Slovenia. We hope that the simplification of the regulation will encourage more Member States to include support for beekeeping benefitting the environment in their CAP Strategic Plans.

The Commission's proposal for the CAP after 2027 ⁽⁴⁾ maintains the possibility for Member States to provide such support for agri-environment and climate actions. This is in addition to support for apiculture interventions as explained in our letter of 4 December 2025 (ARES (2025)10710170).

Yours sincerely,

Gijs SCHILTHUIS

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⁽²⁾ 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, *OJ L, 2025/2649, 31.12.2025*.

⁽³⁾ For these interventions support is granted on a per hectare basis or on the basis of lump sums for categories of beekeepers based on their number of beehives (using ranges).

⁽⁴⁾ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034, [COM/2025/560 final](#).