

**Question for written answer E-000578/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI)

Subject: Next common agricultural policy and water stress factors

In the face of the severe drought ravaging the European Mediterranean basin, the Spanish Government has granted extraordinary drought aid to farmers and reviewed certain environmental requirements¹ under the common agricultural policy (CAP). The most recent aid was granted in July 2023 to Catalonia for dryland herbaceous crops. However, in 2024, water scarcity is even more acute, and Catalonia is entering its 38th month of continued drought.

As a result, restrictions have been imposed and water use by farmers has been cut by between 50%-80%, affecting more than 4 000 hectares of crops². 'Many farmers who feared losing crop yields to fires, droughts and floods were already making a transition to more sustainable practices'³.

Aid from Member States is not adequate to tackle the effects of the drought. A paradigm shift is needed to ensure the future of European agriculture amid the impacts of climate change.

1. Will the Commission propose measures to improve and streamline long-term water resilience across the Union in order to mitigate the consequences of severe droughts that farmers are facing?
2. Will the next CAP reform include a specific chapter on European and national measures to mitigate and adapt to extreme consequences of global warming, such as the current longest drought ever recorded in southern Europe?

Submitted: 21.2.2024

¹ <https://laadministracionaldia.inap.es/noticia.asp?id=1234715>.

² <https://www.diaridetarragona.com/reus/sequera-la-pagesia-vol-aigua-de-la-depuradora-de-reus-per-evitar-la-mort-dels-avellaners-EA15156453>.

³ <https://www.ft.com/content/c642343b-589e-4347-9a7f-ff04b83728ff>.