The Commission has taken many actions to preserve the farming model in the EU and ensure that farming will still be practised in the next years. The new common agricultural policy (CAP) will provide a strong system of support for farmers until 2027, a key step to ensure the supply of affordable food. The CAP will continue to benefit from a robust long-term budget with EUR 387 billion for the 2021-27 period. The system of direct payment will be the main instrument to ensure that farmers can rely on stable income, weathering the impact of fluctuating prices and demand.

The new CAP takes also further steps towards a fairer distribution of income support towards small and medium-sized farms. Member States will have to dedicate at least 10% of their direct payments to the redistributive income support tool, to increase payments received by smaller farms. Other interventions such as the payment for small farmers or capping/degressive reductions may be used to help meet the redistributive needs when duly justified in Member States’ CAP Strategic Plans.

The trade agreement with Mercosur offers real economic opportunities for EU farming communities. Mercosur is a protected market of 260 million consumers with potential for increased exports from the EU. At the same time, the agreement safeguards the interests of European farmers, in particular using of tariff rate quotas for sensitive sectors.

Regarding food security, the EU is self-sufficient for key agricultural and animal products but it is dependent on imports from third countries for farm inputs. The CAP will support measures such as agro-ecological practices and precision farming, which will reduce our dependences and improve the resilience of the European farming system to ensure our food production level.