

EURACTIV

HARVEST

AGRIFOOD PRO

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Good morning,

A familiar food fight broke out in Brussels yesterday over whether EU promotion funds should continue backing red meat and alcohol.

On one side, Greens and left-wing lawmakers argued that taxpayer money should align with the bloc's health and climate ambitions. "We should not incentivise products linked to chronic disease, climate change or biodiversity loss," said Green MEP Tilly Metz.

MEPs from the centre-left to the far-right closed ranks in defence of the current system, which promotes EU food and drink products at home and abroad. Salvatore De Meo (EPP), the Parliament's lead negotiator on a report to revamp the policy, warned against the "demonisation" of red meat and alcohol – a view echoed by many MEPs.

But if anyone expected the Commission to referee the dispute, they were left disappointed. Diego Canga Fano, a senior official in DG AGRI, made clear Brussels has no intention of cutting support. "We are in favour of sustainable livestock," he said. That said, he added that an even larger chunk of the funds goes towards fruits and vegetables.

On other topics, we bring you the latest on the next budget, the agricultural priorities of the Irish Presidency and MEPs reactions to the fertiliser action plan.

Enjoy the read!

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The cost of inaction: without meaningful data protection reform

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The cost of inaction

Protect innovation, simplify rules, and ensure farmers keep access to effective crop protection.

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Happening today

Parliament's report on the single fund

Today, Parliament will hold a joint meeting of the AGRI, REGI and BUDG committees to present the Chamber's report on the NRRP, also known as the single fund. As previously [reported](#) , MEPs are proposing a CAP budget of €433 billion — an additional €139 billion in nominal terms compared to the Commission's proposal. The deadline for submitting amendments is 11 June; their discussion will take place on 14 July, and votes in committee and plenary are expected in November.

A frugal view. In an email yesterday, the think tank Epicenter said that the 2028-34 budget should focus on defence, R&D and capital markets integration rather than cohesion policy and the CAP. Epicenter backs “the position of the so-called ‘Frugal Camp’ plus Germany,” advocating for a phased elimination of CAP income support and a return of cohesion competences to national and regional levels. In a [report](#) published in May, the think tank supported the phasing down of CAP subsidies alongside a parallel easing of EU-level regulation.

To keep up to date with all the latest MFF news, don't miss Euractiv's weekly [Budget Brief](#) !



CAP & agriculture

Irish presidency to focus on CAP, livestock, organic

The CAP, livestock farming, and organic labelling are the priority legislative files for Ireland, which will take the helm of the EU's rotating presidency on 1 July. According to a draft programme seen by *Euractiv*, Dublin will focus its efforts on the new CAP framework, to advance on animal welfare dossiers and to finalise [negotiations](#) on new organic labelling rules by the end of the year, a necessary step to safeguard organic food trade. In terms of fisheries, Ireland wants to make progress on the evaluation of EU fisheries policy and finalise the negotiations on 2027 quotas. Dublin will also oversee the revision of the EU carbon market (ETS). It is possible that it will advocate a more lenient EU approach to [cattle emissions](#), although the document does not mention this aspect.



Lead MEP pushes intervention prices, stockpiling

Yesterday, the parliament's agriculture committee (AGRI) discussed the CMO report drafted by MEP Éric Sargiacomo (S&D, France), with the deadline for tabling amendments 15 July.

Sargiacomo reiterated his intention to raise the CMO intervention prices – Alice and Maria [reported](#) on his plans. Meanwhile, MEP Herbert Dorfmann (EPP, Italy), was wary of strong market intervention and a comeback to the EU's infamous milk lakes and butter mountains. Sargiacomo also wants the national food security plans in the CMO proposal to include stockpiling of fertilisers, seeds and feed.



EU Prosecutor challenges Slovakia's farm subsidy law



(Omar Marques/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

The amendment would weaken the protection of European funds, EPPO says

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Crops & livestock

Advocacy groups call out 'regenerative greenwashing'

As mentioned in yesterday's *Harvest*, a group of 24 green associations and food lobbies have published a joint [statement](#) on 'regenerative greenwashing'. The organisations oppose the misleading use of the term “in corporate branding and EU policy initiatives,” such as the [amendments](#) to the ENVI opinion on the 2028-34 CAP regulation.

Last year, Sofia [reported](#) on the dispute surrounding attempts to turn 'regenerative agriculture' practices into a marketing claim or standard.

The term “cannot [be] used like a magic word without any connection to reality,” said SAFE director Luigi Tozzi in a separated statement.

“The issue is not whether farmers use the word regenerative, but whether EU policy and markets reward real transformation or vague

claims,” said Eduardo Cuoco, director of IFOAM Organics Europe.



Greens step up pressure on Commission over fur farming

The Greens group in the European Parliament [called on](#) the Commission to propose an EU ban on fur farming yesterday, amid repeated delays to its communication on the issue. As part of their campaign, the Greens have launched a tool allowing citizens to email the responsible commissioners to support the call for a ban. A [leaked draft](#) of the Commission’s communication from March pointed instead towards stricter animal welfare standards rather than a full ban.



Commission calls on MEPs to approve fertiliser measures quickly

DG AGRI’s Elisabeth Werner urged MEPs to back the Commission’s upcoming measures, to be presented next week as part of the fertiliser [action plan](#), at a meeting of the European Parliament’s agriculture committee yesterday. On 10 June, the Commission will present its draft amending budget proposal, including the mobilisation of the CAP’s crisis reserve, alongside a targeted CAP package. The package will include a new liquidity scheme and greater flexibility for EU countries to make advance payments to farmers. Both proposals require adoption by the co-legislators. “We need your immediate support for this to reach farmers without delay,” Werner said.



Environment

Trade MEPs back Turnberry tariff deal with US



(Photo by Andrew Hamik/Getty Images)

Don't forget the lobster! MEPs also backed a [separate proposal](#) to allow duty-free imports of live, frozen and processed lobster, replacing a previous [arrangement](#) that expired in July 2025.

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Europe readies record wildfire response force



(Photo by Octavio Passos/Getty Images)

With blazes starting early this year, the EU is deploying nearly 800 firefighters

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UN urges countries to prepare for El Niño

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) [called](#) on governments to prepare for an upcoming El Niño event yesterday. El Niño is characterised by unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific, often linked to higher global temperatures and more extreme weather patterns, including droughts, heavy rainfall and heatwaves, at global level. WMO identifies an 80% likelihood of El Niño event during June-August 2026, with a 90% chance of it to continue until at least November.



The Capitals

Paris – National Assembly adopts agricultural emergency bill

The National Assembly [adopted](#) the agricultural emergency [bill](#) yesterday. MPs supported measures easing water access for farmers and facilitating the expansion of livestock buildings and went further than the government proposal on weakening wolf protection rules. Despite government opposition, MPs proposed banning imports of food tainted with pesticides banned in France, rather than EU-banned substances. The bill now moves to the Senate on 29 June.

Madrid – EU approves €54 million in state aid

Yesterday, the Commission gave Spain the [greenlight](#) for €54 million in state aid to help farmers cope with rising fuel prices, which will take the form of direct grants. The scheme falls under the umbrella of the Middle East Crisis Temporary State Aid Framework (METSAF), [adopted](#) by Brussels in April.

Copenhagen – Government to halve VAT on foods

The new centrist government in Denmark is expected to halve the VAT rate on all foods and remove it entirely for fruit and vegetables, according to a draft coalition agreement [obtained](#) by our colleague

Magnus.



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AGRIFOOD EDITOR
ANGELO DI MAMBRO



SENIOR REPORTER
SOFIA SANCHEZ
MANZANARO



REPORTER
MARIA SIMON
ARBOLEAS



REPORTER
ALICE BERGOËND



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Euractiv Media BV - Boulevard Charlemagne 1, Brussels 1041 - Belgium

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