Agriculture contributes to 10% of the total EU’s greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions have declined by 24% since 1990, while total output of agricultural production was maintained thanks to land management using modern technologies, improved knowledge and specific practices combat climate change.

The EU is already taking measures to ensure sustainable intensification of agriculture. A number of steps have already been taken to integrate climate change concerns into successive reforms of our Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

A substantial amount of €104bn or 25% of the 2014-2020 CAP allocation is estimated to be related to climate. In 2015, it is estimated that €13.6bn of the CAP budget will be climate relevant.

Climate action is also an important aspect of the EU rural development policy, which supports farm modernisation in order to cut energy consumption, produce renewable energy, improve input efficiency and reduce emissions.

The EU is investing in climate smart agriculture. With Horizon 2020, our efforts of research and innovation in food, agriculture, forestry and marine have doubled, reaching €3.6bn for the period 2014-2020. Climate smart agriculture is also one of the key topics for the almost 3000 innovation projects, which are expected to receive funding from the Rural Development budget.