Question for oral answer O-000022/2026
to the Commission
Rule 142
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Subject: War in the Strait of Hormuz: measures to shield European agriculture from rising fertiliser prices

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz has caused a major shock to global energy flows, shipping and insurance costs, with direct impacts on energy, food and fertiliser prices. The European Union is among the regions most exposed.

At the same time, the Commission has itself announced an action plan on fertilisers for the second quarter of 2026, thus confirming that security of supply is now a strategic challenge for the EU. At the High Level Dialogue on Fertilisers, though, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) emerged as one of the main points of friction between fertiliser producers and agricultural organisations, while several participants also called for a revision of the Nitrates Directive in order to facilitate the use of digestate and manure. Despite the urgency of the situation, suspending the CBAM was once again ruled out.

Yet nitrogen fertiliser prices are already soaring on the European market. Europe’s farmers thus find themselves in a genuine stranglehold: geopolitical shock, rising gas costs, maritime freight tensions, soaring insurance premiums and additional regulatory costs. This crisis reveals once again the EU’s structural weaknesses in terms of industrial, energy and food sovereignty.

Given these circumstances:

1. Does the Commission intend to immediately suspend, for the duration of the crisis, EU schemes that artificially escalate the cost of fertilisers for European farmers, and in particular the CBAM?

2. Does it plan to bring forward, before the summer of 2026, a contingency plan to ensure the physical availability and affordability of nitrogen fertilisers in the EU, including by remedying the regulatory contradictions which are hampering the development of alternatives such as digestate and manure?

3. Will it finally recognise EU fertiliser production as being a strategic sector directly related to EU food sovereignty?

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