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E-000782/2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.5.2025)

The Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the modification of customs duties applicable to imports of certain goods originating in or exported directly or indirectly from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus¹ is designed to gradually phase out the EU's dependence on Russian nitrogen-based fertilisers through a transitional approach. This involves measured annual customs duty increases on imports from Russia of such fertilisers over a period of three years, minimising the risk of potential price impacts. Its entry into force is dependent on the conclusion of the ordinary legislative procedure currently ongoing in the European Parliament and the Council.

If the proposal is adopted in its current form, the Commission expects the measure to result in a gradual and orderly replacement of Russian nitrogen-based fertilisers with alternatives, including domestically produced ones, contributing to fair competition in the EU fertilisers market and supporting a stable, long term role of the EU fertilisers industry in ensuring the EU food security.

For broader background, some fertilisers (potash) from Russia are currently subject to an import quota as part of the sanctions adopted following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine².

¹ [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2025\)34&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)34&lang=en)

² Article 3(i) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02014R0833-20250225>