EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.5.2025)

1. On 19 April 2024 the Commission published for public feedback[1] a draft Commission Directive amending Annex III of the Nitrates Directive[2] as regards the use of certain fertilising materials from livestock manure (RENURE). This draft act would allow the use of certain types of processed livestock manure above the limit for land application of livestock manure set out in the Nitrates Directive under certain limits and conditions, allowing them to replace chemical fertilisers. Discussions on the draft text are underway in the Nitrates Committee with the competent Member State authorities.

2. Already today, it is possible for farmers to apply raw and processed manure on grassland as well as arable land in line with the relevant national and EU rules. In nitrate vulnerable zones, these rules include the limitation of land application of livestock manure to the equivalent of 170 kg nitrogen per hectare per year. The Nitrates Directive provides for the possibility to derogate from this limit under strict conditions.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14242-Nitrates-updated-rules-on-the-use-of-certain-fertilising-materials-from-livestock-manure-RENURE-_en
[2] Council Directive of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (91/676/EEC).