

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001698/25
to the Commission
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(28 April 2025)**

Subject: Support measures for the European fertiliser industry

Fertilisers are one of the main factors in agricultural production. Their use contributes to the high-volume quality production of agri-food products and is directly linked to the food security of the entire European Union. It is worth noting that the geographically uneven distribution of the raw materials necessary for their production makes the fertiliser sector dependent on non-EU countries. At the same time, the extremely high energy costs of production in the EU constitute the European fertiliser industry's main problem, directly affecting the prices of its final products as well as food production.

These particular characteristics of the European fertiliser sector make it vulnerable to crises, resulting in loss of competitiveness, continuous reduction in production and often the closure of production units (in the recent energy crisis, 70% of European factories closed) and loss of jobs.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to address the increased costs of production and its adequacy, in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the European fertiliser industry and at the same time the strategic and food autonomy of the entire Union?
2. Does the Commission intend to put in place targeted measures to support the large number of small and medium-sized enterprises active in the fertiliser sector, and in particular in Greece?

Submitted: 29.4.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(9 July 2025)**

Fertilisers are highly tradeable internationally and the EU is dependent on imports for most of the inputs they require. Exogenous developments, such as spikes of natural gas prices or tightening of global supply for phosphatic fertilisers, have a strong impact on production costs.

The Commission is currently undertaking several initiatives to support the European industry, among which the action plan for Affordable Energy ⁽¹⁾ that will benefit energy-intensive industries. In addition, the President of the Commission announced a dedicated action plan for the EU chemical industry ⁽²⁾.

The Common Agricultural Policy ⁽³⁾ supports the improvement of nutrient management, that includes the substitution of mineral with bio-based fertilisers, closing nutrient loops and therefore reducing dependencies. Such actions are planned for 15.5% of EU farming area by 2027 ⁽⁴⁾.

A Fertiliser Market Observatory ⁽⁵⁾ was also established to improve market transparency and monitoring. Fertilisers availability and affordability in the EU improved in 2024, driven by increased nitrogen fertilisers production and lower prices.

The Commission is currently exploring the simplification potential for rules on EU fertilising products ⁽⁶⁾, including possible disproportionate burden on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Furthermore, SMEs can seek financial support from different EU programmes, like the EU Innovation Fund ⁽⁷⁾ and the European Hydrogen Bank ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0079.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/read_25_1198.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013, OJ L435, 6.12.2021.

⁽⁴⁾ https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/result_indicators.html#.

⁽⁵⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/markets/overviews/market-observatories/fertilisers_en.

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 laying down rules on the making available on the market of EU fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R1009>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/eu-funding-climate-action/innovation-fund/what-innovation-fund_en.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0156>.