

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001040/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(12 March 2026)**

Subject: Volatility of fertiliser prices and support to European farmers in light of recent geopolitical developments

Recent geopolitical developments in the Middle East are affecting global energy markets and have led to new volatility in fertiliser prices. The price of urea recently reached USD 583.50 per metric tonne, the highest since 2022. Meanwhile, the price of ammonia imported into north-western Europe has reached a three-year high due to the increase in gas prices.

Strong price volatility may significantly increase production costs for European farmers, at a time when they are already facing increased input prices and heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

Farmers' organisations have warned that persistent price volatility could undermine production and food security in the EU.

1. How does the Commission intend to address the effects of fertiliser price volatility on European farmers?
2. Is the Commission considering adopting measures to ensure the availability and affordability of fertilisers for EU farmers, including possible adjustments to trade measures or targeted market support mechanisms?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take to strengthen the EU's strategic resilience and reduce its dependence on external fertiliser inputs in the medium to long term?

Submitted: 12.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(10 June 2026)**

The Commission is closely monitoring developments in the Strait of Hormuz and their impact on fertiliser markets through the EU Fertiliser Market Observatory ⁽¹⁾.

While no immediate physical shortages of nitrogen fertilisers are expected in the EU, notably due to limited direct import exposure to the Gulf region and sufficient stock levels, recent geopolitical developments have increased global price volatility, which is already affecting EU fertiliser prices.

To mitigate these pressures, the Commission has already taken targeted measures, including a reduced 1% Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) default value mark up for fertilisers and proposed the suspension of customs tariffs within quotas for ammonia, urea and other nitrogen fertilisers to support both farmers and the EU fertiliser industry.

The Commission has also recently adopted a state aid Framework on the Middle East ⁽²⁾ to support both farmers and energy intensive industries affected by the current situation.

On 19 May 2026, the Commission adopted the Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽³⁾, setting out short- and long-term measures to improve fertiliser availability, affordability and resilience.

Short term actions include mobilisation and possible reinforcement of the agricultural reserve, liquidity support under the Common Agricultural Policy, and flexibility for advance payments.

Longer term measures focus on strengthening EU production capacity, supporting low carbon and circular fertilisers, promoting alternative nutrient sources, and reducing dependencies on imported energy and feedstocks.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/markets/overviews/market-observatories/fertilisers_en.

⁽²⁾ https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/legislation/metsaf_en.

⁽³⁾ Commission presents plan to secure Europe's fertiliser supply and food security: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1099.