

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001177/26
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(20 March 2026)**

Subject: Possible fertiliser shortage due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz

Instability in the Gulf region and particularly in the Strait of Hormuz raises serious concerns about the disruption of global supply chains, including for key raw materials used in fertiliser production.

Agricultural production in Europe is highly dependent on the stability of international markets in these sectors.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is its assessment of possible fertiliser shortages due to developments in the Strait of Hormuz?
2. Is there a European contingency plan to ensure the availability of sufficient fertiliser?
3. What measures are being considered to protect European farmers from a possible increase in production costs?

Submitted: 20.3.2026

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

In the short term, tensions in the Strait of Hormuz are unlikely to lead to shortages of fertilisers in the EU, notably due to limited direct import exposure and the existence of sufficient levels of commercial stocks. However, they have contributed to increased global price volatility for fertilisers and other inputs that will affect prices in the EU.

The Commission is closely monitoring the fertiliser markets through the Fertiliser Market Observatory ⁽¹⁾, which met on 21 May 2026 to discuss recent developments. During the meeting, participants confirmed that fertiliser availability is currently not affected.

To relieve pressure, the Commission adopted the Middle East temporary state aid Framework to support farmers and energy intensive industries ⁽²⁾. In addition, imports of ammonia, urea and other nitrogen fertilisers will benefit from tariff suspension, within given quotas, for a period of one year.

On 19 May 2026, the Commission adopted the Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽³⁾ to diversify import sources, reinforce EU production capacity and reduce dependencies on imported energy and feedstocks.

Short term actions include the mobilisation and possible top up of the agricultural reserve, reinforced liquidity support under the CAP and flexibility for advance payments.

Longer term measures focus on supporting low carbon and bio-based fertilisers, promoting circular and recycled nutrients, and supporting nutrient use efficiency, precision farming to reduce farmers' exposure to fertiliser price volatility and production costs over time.

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

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/ip_26_894/IP_26_894_EN.pdf

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1099.