

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001207/26
to the Commission
Ana Miguel Pedro (PPE)
(23 March 2026)

Subject: Impact of the Middle East conflict on the EU's food supply

The recent escalation of the conflict in the Middle East is affecting a strategic region through which a considerable portion of the world's fertiliser trade passes. Restrictions on shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz are causing significant disruptions to international supply chains, including raw materials and fertilisers.

The conflict has pushed up the price of natural gas, which is an essential raw material used in the production of most nitrogen fertilisers. A number of academic studies have shown that roughly half of the world's food production is reliant on fertilisers.

Can the Commission say:

1. Given that the current geopolitical context could lead to a considerable increase in fertiliser prices in the short term, what tangible measures are being considered to protect European farmers?
2. As the Commission is aware that this is a critical moment for fertilisers to be used on European farms, what urgent initiatives does the Commission intend to implement to safeguard timely access to affordable fertilisers and prevent risks to agricultural production and food supply in the European Union?

Submitted: 23.3.2026

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

The Commission is closely monitoring the impact of the current geopolitical situation on fertiliser markets, including through the EU Fertiliser Market Observatory ⁽¹⁾.

The impact on the EU remains limited due to low direct reliance on Middle East imports, sufficient stocks and unaffected production in key supplier countries such as Egypt and Algeria. While no immediate shortages are expected for the 2026 harvest, increased global volatility is affecting fertiliser prices for farmers.

To mitigate pressure, the Commission has already taken targeted measures, including a reduced 1% CBAM default value mark up for fertilisers.

In addition, to support both farmers and the EU fertiliser industry, imports of ammonia, urea and other nitrogen fertilisers will benefit from duty suspension, within given quotas, for a period of one year.

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

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 the mobilisation and possible top-up of the agricultural reserve, liquidity support under the CAP and greater flexibility for advance payments.

The Plan also supports biogas and biomethane projects to reduce energy and nutrient dependencies and foresees the possible activation of emergency tools under the internal market Emergency and Resilience Act ⁽⁴⁾, if necessary.

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

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402747.