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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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EU sanctions are carefully calibrated to target sectors that generate revenue for the Russian budget, whilst minimising unintended effects to the EU economy and global food security. They are not aimed at the civilian population, nor at food products. On fertilisers, the quota established for potash and, in the 20th package, on ammonia were set at a level matching historical import allowing trade to continue while avoiding sanctions' circumvention.

By diversifying energy and fertiliser sources away from Russia, the EU seeks to shield its economy from politically motivated potential price manipulation. Over past years, Member States made substantial efforts to secure alternative energy supplies, improving the energy market resilience.

The Commission maintains a close dialogue with Member States and stakeholders from the farming and fertiliser sectors, through mechanisms such as the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism¹ or the Fertilisers Market Observatory². On 19 May 2026, the Commission adopted the Fertiliser Action Plan³, 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 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and greater flexibility for advance payments. Longer term measures focus on strengthening EU production capacity, supporting the uptake of recycled nutrients and low carbon alternatives, and reducing strategic dependencies on imports. Furthermore, imports of ammonia, urea and certain other nitrogen-based and mixed fertilisers from countries other than Russia and Belarus, now benefit from a tariff suspension⁴, within given quotas, until 31 May 2027.

While there is currently no risk of shortage of fertilisers on the EU market for the upcoming 2026 harvest, the Commission continues to monitor the market and will take further appropriate measures if necessary.

¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/agri-food-supply-chain/ensuring-global-food-supply-and-food-security_en.

² https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/markets/overviews/market-observatories/fertilisers_en.

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

⁴ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/1181/oj>.