

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001440/26
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(9 April 2026)**

Subject: Protecting European farmers and stockbreeders from the effects of the war in the Middle East

The escalation of the war in the Middle East and disruptions in maritime transport are already affecting the cost of fuel, energy and agricultural inputs in the EU, as acknowledged by DG AGRI itself. At the same time, the Commission has pointed out that the EU depends on imports for 30%, 68% and 85% of its consumption of inorganic nitrogen, phosphates and potash nutrients respectively, while natural gas can account for up to 90% of the variable production cost of nitrogen fertilisers. Furthermore, the European Council stressed on 19 March 2026 that the conflict was having a direct impact on energy prices and supply chains.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to immediately mobilise the CAP's agricultural reserve, which amounts to EUR 450 million per year, and other exceptional support tools to compensate for increased energy, fuel, fertiliser, feed and transport costs?
2. Will it allow Member States additional flexibility to provide targeted support for farmers, stockbreeders, cooperatives and processing companies in the agri-food chain?

Submitted: 9.4.2026

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

With the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the Commission is working on multiple fronts to ease pressure and support farmers and operators. First, on 29 April 2026 the Commission adopted a temporary framework for state aid ⁽¹⁾ to support the most exposed sectors, including agriculture. Additionally, duty free tariff rate quotas ⁽²⁾ for ammonia, urea and other nitrogen fertilisers from countries other than Russia and Belarus, have been adopted for a period of one year until 31 May 2027.

Secondly, on 22 April 2026 the Commission adopted AccelerateEU ⁽³⁾, a communication proposing measures to achieve a more resilient EU energy system in the medium and long term, through *inter alia* greater coordination between Member States, support to Member States and accelerating the shift to domestic clean energy. The communication includes measures that will directly benefit EU consumers and businesses, including farmers.

Furthermore, on 19 May 2026, the Commission adopted the Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽⁴⁾, which includes both short-term and long-term structural measures, aiming to reduce import dependency, boost domestic production and provide targeted support to farmers, while remaining aligned with the EU's climate and environmental objectives. One of the short-term actions proposed in the Plan is the mobilisation and top-up of the agricultural reserve to provide fast relief to farmers.

The Commission is closely monitoring the situation and will consider, if needed, additional support for farmers.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/2593/oj>.

⁽²⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/1181/oj>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0370&qid=1777020622768>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=comnat:COM_2026_0310_FIN.