

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001670/26
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(23 April 2026)

Subject: Addressing the fertiliser crisis and strengthening food security in the EU

The geopolitical instability of recent years has serious consequences that are not just limited to energy availability and prices, but create multiple problems throughout the supply chain.

Both the 2022 energy crisis and the recent blockade of the Strait of Hormuz have shown that disruptions in the supply of natural gas to the EU directly affect, among other things, the production and availability of fertilisers (in 2022, 70% of European factories closed). The result is a surge in the cost of agricultural production but above all a threat to the EU's food security.

Spain has recently taken important initiatives, calling for the formulation of a European plan to prevent future crises and investment in research into alternative forms of fertilisation. At the same time, it is supporting its farmers with financial measures of EUR 500 million to address the impact of the increased cost of fertilisers.

In Greece, the measures presented by the Government are insignificant in scale and are not sufficient to address the problem effectively.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the establishment of a European fertiliser mechanism, with strategic planning and emergency tools, such as the creation of strategic reserves, for coordinated support to EU farmers in times of crisis?
2. What initiatives does it intend to take to strengthen research into alternative fertilisation technologies, in order to reduce our dependence on non-EU countries?

Submitted: 23.4.2026

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

While no dedicated EU fertiliser mechanism as described by the Honourable Member exists, the Commission relies on instruments such as the Fertiliser Market Observatory ⁽¹⁾ to monitor fertiliser market developments.

The recently adopted Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽²⁾ includes measures to ensure availability and affordability, address market imbalances and strengthen coordination.

It includes a specific action aiming at assessing stockpiling and other preparedness options for fertilisers. It will take full account of subsidiarity, storage and safety constraints, possible effects on prices and consistency with horizontal preparedness instruments.

In terms of research, Horizon Europe has financed 116 Research and Innovation (R&I) projects related to sustainable nutrient management in the last years, for a total of EUR 750 million ⁽³⁾.

This includes projects on bio-based fertilisers. To bridge the gap between R&I and industry, the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE-JU) was created, a EUR 2 billion partnership between the EU and the Bio-based Industries Consortium that funds projects advancing competitive circular bio-based industries.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://transition-pathways.europa.eu/agri-food/policies/fertiliser-action-plan-safeguarding-food-security-and-supply>.

⁽³⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/factsheet-agriresearch-fertilisers_en.pdf.