

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001889/26
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(7 May 2026)**

Subject: Commission actions to deal with the effects of the Middle East conflict on the agri-food sector and strengthen food security

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and geopolitical uncertainty are having a significant impact on the agri-food sector. In addition to the surge in energy costs, according to the Commission, in April 2026, nitrogen fertilisers cost 70% more compared to 2024 and global supply has been disrupted, as the region accounts for 20-30% of ammonia and urea exports.

These developments translate into increased production costs and a possible increase in food prices, weakening the purchasing power of European consumers. Given the importance of this sector, it is imperative that the European Union take immediate action to ensure food security.

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

1. In view of the forthcoming Fertiliser Action Plan, how will the Commission help towards bringing down the cost of fertilisers so that they are affordable for farmers?
2. Following the AccelerateEU Communication, what action does it intend to take to ensure affordable energy for the agri-food sector, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises?
3. Does it have any data on the potential impact of the CBAM and ETS on agricultural prices and how does it intend to address these potential consequences?

Submitted: 7.5.2026

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

The Commission is closely monitoring the impact of geopolitical developments on fertilisers, energy and agricultural markets. To help address rising costs, it has already taken measures, including a temporary suspension of duties for urea, ammonia and other key nitrogen fertilisers within given quotas (excluding imports from Russia and Belarus) ⁽¹⁾ and a reduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) default value markup to 1%.

The Commission has proposed actions to help Member States protect vulnerable consumers and sectors affected by the Middle East energy crisis.

These include targeted and temporary national support measures, supported by the new Middle East Crisis Temporary state aid Framework (METSAF) ⁽²⁾, which allows state aid to some sectors including the primary agricultural production.

With Accelerate EU ⁽³⁾, the Commission has established a catalogue of good practices, showcasing national measures to support vulnerable consumers, small and medium-size enterprises and others.

The Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽⁴⁾ also includes short term measures to improve affordability for farmers, including the possibility of targeted support through the agricultural reserve and a legislative package offering additional options under Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans, including liquidity support, to be adopted by the co-legislators in July 2026.

To strengthen resilience, the Plan sets out actions to increase EU fertiliser production capacity, support decarbonisation, diversify supply, improve market transparency and promote nutrient recycling. The Commission will also assess how CBAM and ETS related costs are reflected in fertiliser prices and food prices.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202601181.

⁽²⁾ https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/legislation/metsaf_en.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0370&qid=1780585829562>.

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