

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002064/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(19 May 2026)**

Subject: Impact of EU climate policy on the competitiveness of agriculture and the fertiliser sector

European farmers are facing ever-increasing production costs linked to energy and fertiliser prices, as well as the increasing regulatory burden of EU climate policy. Meanwhile, the European Commission has also announced further actions to reduce the use of mineral fertilisers, highlighting the development of biogas plants and digestate as an alternative. However, without adequate investment support and safeguarding the competitiveness of European production, these measures could exacerbate the crisis in agriculture, increase the EU's dependence on imports and further increase food prices.

In light of the above:

1. What impact assessment has the Commission carried out on the effect of EU climate policy on the competitiveness of the European fertiliser sector and costs for farmers?
2. What specific financial instruments does the Commission intend to mobilise to support the construction of biogas plants and the development of the use of digestate in Member States?
3. How does the Commission intend to prevent a further reduction in fertiliser production in Europe and a deepening of the crisis in the competitiveness of European agriculture?

Submitted: 19.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(4 August 2026)**

The Impact Assessment to accompany the revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive ⁽¹⁾ has analysed the impact of several elements, including potential measures to prevent the risk of carbon leakage, as well as measures for supporting the decarbonisation of industry via the Industrial Decarbonisation Bank.

As part of this process, the Commission took fully into account the provisions relevant to carbon leakage in the revision of the EU ETS Directive.

The Fertilisers Action Plan (FAP) ⁽²⁾ notes that Member States can use Cohesion Funds to support sustainable biogas and biomethane production and, in line with AccelerateEU ⁽³⁾, can deploy accelerating measures for Cohesion Funds and Recovery and Resilience Plans.

The Common Agricultural Policy also supports bioeconomy and sustainable biogas/methane through interventions, such as rural development funding for investments, cooperation partnerships to achieve economies of scale, training/advisory services.

Additionally, the InvestEU programme ⁽⁴⁾, including through the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, supports biogas and bioenergy projects in the EU.

The FAP sets out a comprehensive package of measures to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of the EU fertiliser sector.

The Plan aims to support domestic production capacity, accelerate the deployment of low carbon and circular fertiliser solutions, diversify sources of raw materials and feedstocks, improve market transparency, and foster innovation, all while advancing the sector's decarbonisation.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/87/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/agri-food-supply-chain/ensuring-availability-and-affordability-fertilisers_en#fertiliser-action-plan.

⁽³⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/accelerateeu-energy-union-affordable-and-secure-energy-through-accelerated-action_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme_en.