

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002442/26
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(14 June 2026)**

Subject: Protecting European agriculture from excessive speculation in raw materials

The prices of agricultural products and essential inputs are influenced not just by realities on the ground, but also by financial dynamics that can artificially increase volatility. When markets are dominated by disproportionate speculative movements, farmers face additional instability without having the tools they need to protect themselves effectively. This pressure affects production decisions, investment planning and the ability of farms to remain competitive.

Agriculture cannot be left at the mercy of fluctuations that are disconnected from the real economy, especially in a context where European producers are already subject to high compliance costs and growing climate risks. The Union must ensure that markets retain their legitimate economic function without becoming an additional destabilising factor for food producers.

Does the Commission intend to consider, together with the competent institutions, additional measures to limit excessive speculative effects on agricultural markets and to protect European farmers from financial volatility that does not reflect actual production and supply conditions?

Submitted: 14.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 August 2026)**

The Commission shares the view that market developments should be driven by underlying supply and demand fundamentals. As part of the Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is working to improve transparency in fertiliser markets, within the limits of EU competition rules, to support informed market decisions and reduce the risk of distortions that could amplify price volatility for farmers.

The action plan also considers exploring the role of financial risk-management tools, to help fertiliser market participants hedge against price volatility.

Such instruments are intended to improve price certainty for farmers, rather than to encourage speculative activity or influence market fundamentals.

Finally, the Fertiliser Market Observatory is one of the Commission's sectoral market observatories, which together enhance transparency and provide timely market intelligence across key agricultural sectors.

It plays a key role in monitoring developments in the fertiliser market, serving as the Commission's main platform for exchanging information on market conditions, enabling farmers and other stakeholders to share their views and raise concerns.

Representatives from several Commission Directorates-General participate in the Observatory, ensuring a coordinated and cross sectoral approach to monitoring market developments and addressing emerging challenges.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0310>.