

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001169/26
to the Commission**

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(19 March 2026)

Subject: Impact of the Middle East crisis on EU farmers, input costs and food supply chains

Considering the impact of the ongoing conflict in Iran and the Middle East on the EU agricultural sector, we would like the Commission to clarify what actions it plans to take to address the challenges that the sector faces.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What immediate measures is it taking to mitigate the impact of rising fuel, energy and fertiliser costs on farmers and agricultural producers across the EU?
2. How does it assess the risk of supply disruptions or price spikes in key agricultural inputs, particularly nitrogen fertilisers, and what contingency plan is in place should the situation deteriorate further?
3. Should the situation threaten farm viability and food production, is the Commission prepared to mobilise available common agricultural policy instruments, including crisis and market support tools, while providing Member States with the necessary flexibility to support the most exposed sectors through targeted measures — including temporary state aid flexibility or emergency support mechanisms?

Submitted: 19.3.2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission

(13 May 2026)

The Commission acknowledges the significant pressure that EU farmers face due to increased energy and fertiliser prices, exacerbated by the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East which have constrained global supply chains, underscoring the critical need to bolster the EU's strategic autonomy.

The Commission is closely monitoring developments. Regarding fertilisers, work is accelerated on an Action Plan, to be presented in the coming weeks.

This plan will elaborate short- and medium-term measures to strengthen the EU production capacity and reduce high-risk strategic dependencies, to ensure the availability, affordability and stability in the supply of fertilisers to EU farmers.

Recent measures have already been implemented such as the adjustment of default Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism values applicable to fertilisers, applying a flat 1% mark-up, and the proposal to temporarily suspend most favoured nations (MFN) duties on imports of other than Russian and Belarussian origin of several key nitrogen fertilisers and inputs for their production (ammonia, urea) up to a certain volume of imports into the EU.

The Commission remains committed to continuously assessing the situation and is ready to take action, including through the application of competition law instruments, where appropriate.

The Commission is exploring whether additional support mechanisms are needed for farmers in the short term, drawing upon available instruments under the Common Agricultural Policy.

Concerning state aid, the Commission adopted on 29 April 2026 a state aid framework ⁽¹⁾ to enable Member States to support the sectors most affected by the Middle East crisis including agriculture.

⁽¹⁾ https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/legislation/metsaf_en.