

# Foreword – Director General

What a year! The EU proposals on the Green Deal published in the summer, the gas crisis in the autumn and the war in Ukraine in the spring.

*Rarely has the political agenda been this full, and the need for communication and advocacy from Fertilizers Europe been so important.*

One of the consequences of this charged agenda has been that the importance of food security and food sovereignty was back on the top of Europe's priorities. A powerful reminder that a strong domestic fertilizer industry is at the core of providing nutritious, affordable and abundant food for EU citizens.

The gas crisis in the autumn and the war in Ukraine has clearly shown EU's dependence on Russian gas, and this had important consequences for the nitrogen fertilizer industry for which gas is the basic raw material. Europe's drive to decouple from Russia's fossil fuel energy is currently a huge challenge for businesses and citizens across Europe.

This crisis has strengthened the green agenda as a way of reducing the dependence. By moving away from current fertilizer production based on natural gas, towards low-carbon production of ammonia and fertilizers via green or blue ammonia, we would significantly reduce reliance on Russian energy imports while developing low-carbon technologies to secure the supply of green ammonia and low-carbon fertilizers. Ultimately, this will strengthen Europe's food security.

Over the past year, we have seen many projects on green ammonia being announced, and also the first project in Puertollano in Spain, with a 20 MW electrolyser producing green hydrogen for green ammonia production, coming on-stream. It is a very exciting development and it

proves that the fertilizer industry will stay relevant in Europe for many years to come.

From the nutrient application perspective, making the most out of available resources is also helping Europe's overall objective.

Focus on nutrient use efficiency through digital tools and nutrient management solutions will help improve yields and reduce nutrient losses.

Such an approach will equally improve the resilience and sustainability of the EU agricultural sector.

## Membership

*In January 2022, Fertilizers Europe was happy to welcome Duslo s.a. from Slovakia as its 17<sup>th</sup> member.*

However, the war in Ukraine also resulted in membership changes. Fertilizers Europe's President decided to suspend the membership of EuroChem Antwerp as of 23 March 2022 with a view of taking a formal decision on the membership by the General Assembly. On 25 May, members took a formal decision to exclude EuroChem Antwerpen from the association.

## Future of the association

Work has started to create an exciting vision of the longer-term future of our association. A strategic revision of our association is meant to help the organisation and its members meet the challenges and opportunities of a fast-paced world around us.

Fertilizers Europe has already taken a first step into the future by introducing its new visual identity. Modern and distinctive visual features reflect our industry's commitment to low-carbon production, innovation and sustainable agriculture.



**Jacob Hansen,**  
Director General,  
Fertilizers Europe

At the time of writing, the political and associational world is slowly returning to face-to-face meetings and in-person conferences, the bread and butter of a trade association. Many things we have learned over the past two years will stay with us, such as online meetings and events. The post-Covid public relations and advocacy world will be about making the most of traditional and digital ways of advocating and interacting with stakeholders.

*The work of the secretariat would not be possible without continued support from our members.*

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their excellent guidance and strong involvement in the association's activities throughout the year. I also want to thank the many representatives of members and national associations who take time to attend meetings and join calls.

Final thanks go to the team in Brussels. A very challenging year has been overcome with dedication and hard work.

I invite you to dive into our Annual Review to discover our association's main priorities and activities!