

New Fertilizing Product Regulation – accelerating the transition to a circular economy

Brussels, 25 June 2019: Fertilizers Europe welcomes today's publication of new fertilizing product regulation (FPR) in the Official Journal of the European Union. The new rules will make it possible to deliver quality products to EU farmers and communicate about it. From the circular economy perspective, this legislation not only opens access to new sources of recycled materials but also recognises that current practices within the mineral fertilizer industry fall under the principles of the circular economy.

With the New Fertilizing Product Regulation in place, the EU adopted new rules for placing fertilizing products on the EU market. Jacob Hansen, Director General of Fertilizers Europe commented *“the new procedures for placing mineral fertilizers and other fertilizing products on the market should ensure confidence of consumers”*. He also underlined that *“it is especially important that national authorities quickly start identifying potential Notified Bodies. This will ensure that the Conformity Assessment procedures can be used by producers to bring new products on the market”*.

The new Regulation provides the opportunity for the plant nutrition industry to use recycled by-products as raw materials for fertilizers. Jacob Hansen said *“we aspire to be the leading sector of industrial symbiosis and recycling in Europe. The inclusion of industry by-products in the scope of the regulation without creating disproportionate bureaucracy for the placing of mineral fertilizers on the Single Market is an important milestone that will help us continue leading the way”*.

The Regulation sets new maximum limits for contaminants. One of the main challenges created by the new regulation is the setting of a maximum limit of 60 mg/kg P₂O₅ for the cadmium content in phosphorus fertilizers from summer 2022 onwards. This limit is seen as a challenge for the European phosphate industry. However, Fertilizers Europe does recognize the drive behind this decision to seek compromise and try to find the balance between health and environmental protection as well as availability of raw materials to the industry.

The publication of the new legislation is officially kicking-off the three years implementation phase. A successful transition phase demands the cooperation of the entire value chain. Fertilizers Europe thus encourages every actor in the EU agri-food sector and in the fertilizer industry to continue engaging in the dialogue and working towards common solutions for a successful implementation of this regulation.

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About Fertilizers Europe

Fertilizers Europe represents the majority of fertilizer producers in Europe and is recognized as the dedicated industry source of information on mineral fertilizers. The Association communicates with a wide variety of institutions, legislators, stakeholders and members of the public who seek information on fertilizer technology and topics relating to today's agricultural, environmental and economic challenges.