

Fertilizer industry is ready to step up to the ambitions set in the Green Deal to move towards more sustainable agricultural production and low-carbon economy

Brussels, 13 December 2019: The European fertilizer industry acknowledge the EU's Green Deal. Under the right legislative framework, the fertilizer industry can play a vital role in delivering on the EU's ambition to lead sustainable agricultural production and contribute to the transition towards low-carbon economy.

Today, around 50% of the World's population is fed thanks to mineral fertilizers.

With the growing population and the urgent need for action against climate change, the world needs much more food but far fewer emissions. The European fertilizer industry is ready to step up to the challenge and play a dual role in the transition towards climate neutral society.

On the fertilizer use side, European fertilizer industry aims to play its part by offering better fertilizer products, precisely targeted to specific crops that combined with new tools and real-time data opens a new range of possibilities. 'Applying more knowledge per hectare' is expected to have positive effects on economic and environmental sustainability of farming practices in Europe.

Commenting on the announced reduction/optimisation of fertilizer use Jacob Hansen, Director General of Fertilizers Europe stated *"it is important to look globally at this ambition. Such objective should centre around increasing use efficiency - whether the source is manure or mineral fertilizers – as ultimately plant production relies on sufficient nutrients for healthy plant growth"*.

Jacob Hansen added *"There is no silver bullet here. A combination of tools and good practices is needed to achieve optimal results. As an example, the Farm Sustainability Tool for Nutrients (FaST), as proposed by the European Commission in the context of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Strategic Plans, should play a crucial role in fostering good farm practices to reduce nutrient losses to the environment"*.

On the fertilizer production side, with Europe forging ahead with the transition to clean energy and increased use of renewable energy sources, the nitrogen fertilizer industry as a producer of ammonia offers the key to unlocking clean energy potential. However, in order to be in a position to tackle the challenges of tomorrow, the industry will need to stay fit to invest today. For this reason, Europe needs a predictable legislative framework that will foster competitiveness of the industry during the transformation.

Jacob Hansen, Director General at Fertilizers Europe said *"If appropriately designed and implemented, Europe's Green Deal could give a new boost to European energy intensive industries like fertilizers. However, if wrongly designed it could also impact industry's competitiveness and drive investment outside Europe."*

He further stated that *“to ensure the ambition of the transformation of our economy, policies need to ensure a level playing field and take account of the carbon leakage. A policy such as a carbon border adjustment mechanism could be an important addition to carbon leakage measures ensuring that European producers can have the confidence and the economic room to invest in new technologies.”*

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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.