

Brussels, 11 May 2022

FERTILIZERS EUROPE STATEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF THE EU FERTILISING PRODUCT REGULATION

In view of the upcoming application of the Fertilising Product Regulation (Regulation (EU)2019/1009), set for 16 July 2022, the European fertilizers industry would like to reiterate its commitment to provide farmers with all the quality nutrients they need in order to feed a growing world population.

The European fertilizers industry supports the development of EU rules on placing fertilizing products on the market and therefore supports the application of the new EU Fertilising Product Regulation. However, it is clear that we are confronted with a complicated and technical piece of legislation, which can only be imperfectly applied by 16 July 2022.

Considering the current state of play, Fertilizers Europe acknowledges the difficulties faced by the industry in achieving the full compliance with the provisions envisaged by Regulation (EU) 2019/1009. **We ask the European Commission and national authorities to show understanding and to accept imperfect compliance with the new rules, for a minimum period of 12 months.** This will grant the industry the flexibility needed to ensure a continuous nutrient supply and to deliver on food security.

The following elements constitute concrete examples of hurdles to the immediate application of the Regulation:

- The current lack of accredited Notified Bodies, which are required to perform the products conformity assessment, makes it impossible to have products assessed and a continuous placement on the market.
- Similarly, the conformity assessment of products will have to be carried out against a set of harmonized standards which are not yet fully developed.
- More difficulties than anticipated in obtaining the required detailed information on component materials from international suppliers.
- Delays in finalizing the legal provisions on some amendments (i.e., by-products) still leave interpretation difficulties such as for tolerances.
- The implementation process is being slowed down by the practical consequences of the war in Ukraine. One example is represented by the difficulty of procuring packaging material from Ukraine, a traditional supplier of these products.