

The European Council's conclusions fail to understand the crucial role of mineral fertilizers in ensuring food security

Brussels, 10 June 2022: Fertilizers Europe welcomes the objective of an integrated approach to nutrient management but regrets how Members States' governments fail to understand that the objective of food security cannot be achieved without mineral fertilizers.

Last week the European Council adopted its conclusions on food security, calling for more concerted efforts to work with international partners to promote a more efficient use and alternative to fertilizers. The European fertilizers industry welcomes the focus on a more efficient use of nutrients. We support a combined approach that takes into account both mineral and organic sources to achieve an optimal level of fertilization. Nevertheless, it must be clear that no alternative source can replace mineral fertilizers, while maintaining the same adequate level of food production and ultimately ensuring food security at EU and global level.

"In these extraordinary times where food supply shortages and food security are back on the European agenda, an open dialogue between the industry, farmers and policy makers is crucial. The European fertilizers industry recognizes the need to act decisively to reduce our dependence on Russia and improve the carbon footprint of European food production. However, these objectives will not be met without recognizing the contribution of all sectors and avoiding idealistic biases. We need to join forces towards the common objective of sustainable food production" said Jacob Hansen, Director General of Fertilizers Europe.

Hansen added *"Today, 50% of global food production relies on mineral fertilizers and the European fertilizers industry is aware of its responsibility of providing plants with the nutrients they need to grow: there is no alternative source that can replace mineral fertilizers. An effective and integrated approach to nutrient management is the only way forward to ensure sustainability while keeping up food production levels"*.