

Fertilizer industry needs prioritised access to gas supply as sector is key to Europe's food security



Brussels, 20 July 2022

Fertilizers Europe acknowledges the European Commission's efforts to ensure coordinated action to prepare for possible further gas disruptions. Without a steady supply of affordable gas, there is a looming risk for European fertilizer production and in turn food production in the EU.

"The EU and member states leaders must ensure that the gas flows where it is most needed, protecting domestic users as well as prioritizing essential sectors of the economy. Maintaining a well-functioning fertilizer sector across Europe is essential to avert risk of fertilizer shortages which could have a detrimental effect on Europe's food sovereignty", said Jacob Hansen, Director General of Fertilizers Europe.

Currently, the European fertilizer producers use gas as feedstock and thus have no room to switch to other fuels. While industry is stepping up its efforts to switch to low-carbon production, the immediate urgency of fertilizer industry is to ensure an undisturbed supply of natural gas.

"Despite volatile gas prices and lower market demand for fertilizers, European fertilizer industry has been in past months doing its utmost to continue supporting farmers and guarantee long-term food security in Europe. In the past weeks, the European fertilizer producers grappled with historically high gas prices leading to another round of curtailments. If natural gas availability is to deteriorate further, Europe risks experiencing fertilizer shortage that will impact Europe's agriculture in the coming season. It is therefore key that EU and Member States governments recognize our sector as societally critical sector," stated Jacob Hansen.



Fertilizers Europe asbl
Avenue des Nerviens 9-31
1040, Brussels - Belgium
www.fertilizerseurope.com

N° Entreprise:
BE 0894 132 837
Transparency register n°:
80788715017-29

Contact details:
Tel: +32 2 675 35 50
main@fertilizerseurope.com



Fertilizers
Europe

Contacts:

LUKASZ PASTERSKI
Senior Communication Manager

+32 472 055 606
Lukasz.pasterski@fertilizerseurope.com

SEAN MACKLE
Trade & Economic Director

+32 475 67 93 00
Sean.mackle@fertilizerseurope.com



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