

The European Commission's proposal on Soil Monitoring and Resilience offers an opportunity to re-design EU agri-food systems by focusing on optimized use of nutrients and balanced fertilization



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Fertilizers Europe, representing the European fertilizer industry, welcomes the European Commission's ambition to boost soil management across the EU territory. Today's Soil Monitoring and Resilience proposal demonstrates a positive step towards promoting sustainable soil and nutrient management at farm level, ensuring soil fertility, and ultimately ensuring EU food security.

On Wednesday 5 July 2023, the European Commission unveiled a highly-anticipated package on food and biodiversity, including a proposal for a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience.

"The Commission's proposal recognises the crucial role of healthy soils in Europe's drive towards food security. Providing soils with a legal status represents an important step towards reducing nutrient losses to the environment, in alignment with the Farm to Fork strategy. The European fertilizer industry is committed to continue playing an integral role by providing on-farm solutions that lead to better yields and reduced nutrient losses" said Antoine Hoxha, Director General of Fertilizers Europe.

"A balanced level of fertilization that combines mineral and organic sources of nutrients represents the most effective way to improve organic content in soils" said Hoxha commenting on the Soil Monitoring and Resilience Law proposal. He added *"Focussing on Nutrient Use Efficiency is a precondition to reduce losses to the environment. We therefore regret to see that balanced fertilization is not listed by the European Commission among the list of sustainable soil management practices"*.



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