

## Clean Industrial Deal: Fertilizers Europe calls for a Dedicated Sectoral Strategy

Brussels, 26 February 2025: Fertilizers Europe cautiously welcomes the European Commission's Clean Industrial Deal, particularly its strong focus on addressing high energy prices and its inclusion of sectoral strategies such as a Chemical Industry package. A key priority, however, is the establishment of a dedicated strategy for the fertilizer sector, recognising its unique position at the intersection of agriculture and industry.

Antoine Hoxha, Director General of Fertilizers Europe, commented: *"The Clean Industrial Deal rightly pinpoints high energy costs, unfair global competition and complex regulatory environment as the main factors hindering the competitiveness of energy intensive industries, including fertilizers. Given a unique position of fertilizer industry at the crossroads of agriculture and industry, we urge the European Commission to implement a tailored sectoral strategy, proposing targeted solutions and dedicated funding, to safeguard Europe's fertilizer and food security"*.

On energy prices and accessibility, Hoxha added: *"Energy costs remain a major barrier to investment in low-carbon ammonia and fertilizers. Ensuring access to affordable, clean energy is essential for the competitiveness of our industry. We thus welcome the study on fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBOs) Delegated Act, identifying barriers to scaling up low-carbon hydrogen. We also stress the urgency of revising the act as soon as possible to stimulate investment decisions which are currently on hold."*

On CBAM, Hoxha emphasized: *"The timely implementation of CBAM in 2026 is critical for the fertilizer sector. Any delay will hinder industry's ability to compete with non-EU producers on equal terms, adding further competitive pressure to an already stressed sector"*.

Hoxha concluded: *"We welcome the Commission's recognition of the challenges faced by EU exporters of CBAM goods. A fast-tracked, practical solution for exports is crucial to ensure that EU producers can compete on fair terms with global competitors. Moreover, the approach proposed in Draghi's report to temporarily maintain the free allocations could be an elegant and effective solution"*.

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