

A Blow to Europe's Strategic Autonomy, Climate Policy and Competitiveness

Brussels, 8 January 2026: Fertilizers Europe strongly oppose any action that would further undermine the competitiveness of an already stressed sector. The European Commission's intention to temporarily suspend the tariffs combined with signals that it could open the door to the suspension of the application of CBAM for fertilizers, is totally unacceptable. A predictable and stable regulatory framework is essential to ensure a reliable supply of fertilizers, enable investments, and above all, safeguard Europe's strategic autonomy.

On 7 January, EU agriculture ministers met to discuss how to ensure EU food security and sovereignty. Following the meeting, Commission representatives announced a range of measures affecting European fertilizer industry.

"Yesterday's announcement by the European Commission on fertilizers is full of contradictions. On the one hand, the EU recognises that a strong domestic fertilizer industry is crucial to avoid harmful dependencies. On the other hand, the same institution announces a set of measures that would undermine the industry's competitiveness. This approach goes against its own objective as outlined in the ResourceEU Action Plan, to reduce external dependencies" said Leo Alders, President of Fertilizers Europe.

The fertilizer sector is among the most exposed industries to carbon leakage. CBAM was introduced to complement the EU ETS and finally correct many years of competitive distortion faced by European producers. The Commission developed and published a detailed methodology and an extensive set of default values. The carbon cost is therefore fully transparent. Instead, the Commission claims that the cost is "serious and unforeseen" and uses it as argument for a potential suspension of CBAM on fertilizers.

Andrzej Dawidowski, Fertilizers Europe Vice-President, and Vice-President of the Management Board in Grupa Azoty stressed *"For years, EU producers have faced unfair competition from regions without carbon pricing and significantly lower environmental standards. CBAM is designed precisely to fix this and in effect level the playing field. Reversing course now would put Europe at huge risk of losing its industrial base and becoming fully dependent on carbon-intensive imports. Without predictable rules and a genuine level playing field, there will be no strategic autonomy on fertilizers and food in Europe."*

Monica Andres Enriquez, Vice-President of Fertilizers Europe and Executive Vice-President at Yara International added: *"We understand farmers' concerns around high fertilizer prices. However, the massive confusion now created by the Commission will not solve this challenge. Instead, it creates huge uncertainty for fertilizer producers, importers, and farmers alike. CBAM is a cornerstone of Europe's climate and industrial policy. Without predictable rules and trust, there can be no steady flow of products, no continued investment in decarbonization, and no safeguarding of Europe's strategic autonomy"*.

"Losing Europe's fertilizer industry would not only mean exporting emissions abroad. It would also put farmers at risk of losing reliable access to high-quality fertilizers and ultimately weaken Europe's entire food system. If Europe is serious about food security, climate leadership and competitiveness, it simply cannot afford to take actions that undermine competitiveness of its own industry" concluded Antoine Hoxha, Director General of Fertilizers Europe.

Fertilizers Europe is fully committed to working proactively and constructively with the European Commission, farmers and other stakeholders to develop a robust and comprehensive EU Fertilizer Strategy that delivers security of supply, a level playing field and economically and environmentally sustainable production across Europe.

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