

EU Food Security and Strategic Autonomy at Risk Without Structural Approach to Fertilizers

Brussels, 13 April 2026: The European fertilizer industry welcomes the High-Level Dialogue on Fertilizers in the context of the upcoming Fertilizer Action Plan. It stresses that without urgent measures to restore industrial competitiveness in the face of persistently high energy and carbon costs, Europe risks undermining its food security and strategic autonomy. Freezing ETS free allocations until 2030 while ensuring a robust implementation of CBAM is essential to avoid irreversible loss of industrial capacity.

Recent geopolitical crises challenged assumptions of stable and predictable global markets, putting the resilience of European agriculture to the test. *“The resilience of European agriculture is being tested like never before. Despite global energy and fertilizer market volatility, European producers have ensured a stable supply”,* said Leo Alders, President of Fertilizers Europe and CEO of LAT Nitrogen, adding *“However, the EU agricultural system is under severe competitive pressure. Fertilizer plants are facing shutdown risks, while farmers struggle to stay afloat. The time to act is now.”*

Fertilizers are at the core of the food value chain, highlighting the close interdependence between industry and farmers. Restoring industrial competitiveness is therefore essential to prevent further production losses and increasing reliance on imports. A robust implementation of CBAM, which is ETS for imports, is key to ensuring a level playing field. *“Farmers need direct financial support, but not at the expense of EU production. Directing CBAM revenues to farmers will ensure they receive essential support while preserving Europe’s industrial base,”* stressed Aviv Bar Tal, CCO at OCI Global and Board Member of Fertilizers Europe. He added *“Reducing Europe’s dependency on imports will ensure a more secure and predictable supply of high-quality and lower-emission products”.*

Decarbonisation must be delivered in a way that preserves industrial competitiveness and prevents carbon leakage. Juan Pablo Llobet, CEO of Fertiberia, stated *“The pace of ETS free allocation phase-out, and its direct impact on CBAM, is critical for farmers’ competitiveness. If the transition moves too quickly, costs will rise across the value chain – costs that farmers cannot absorb or pass on”.* He further stressed that *“A predictable and well-calibrated transition, accompanied by adequate and timely support, is essential to avoid irreversible loss of industrial capacity. If we lose that capacity, Europe will import both emissions and dependency”.*

To unlock investments in low-carbon fertilizers, the EU must provide a predictable regulatory framework, including technology neutrality and effective demand creation measures. *“Investment will only scale if all decarbonization pathways are supported”,* said Mónica Andrés Enríquez, Vice-President of Fertilizers Europe and EVP at Yara, adding that *“the transition must also be economically viable for farmers. The Commission can support this by creating incentives along, and in particular, at the end of the food value chain”.*

The European fertilizer industry remains committed to working constructively with EU institutions and stakeholders to establish a balanced framework that strengthens competitiveness, advances sustainability and safeguards Europe’s long-term food security.

“The High-Level Dialogue is a welcome first step” stated Antoine Hoxha, Fertilizers Europe’s Director General, concluding that *“Europe needs a coherent and strategic approach to address both short-term pressures and long-term challenges. The upcoming Fertilizer Action Plan must move beyond rhetoric and deliver concrete solutions with measurable outcomes”.*

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