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## Press Release

# Fertiliser crisis: the Commission completes its short-term response, but it remains insufficient

**Today, the European Commission unveiled a complementary set of CAP adjustments aimed at providing Member States with greater flexibility to support farmers facing sharply rising fertiliser costs. These measures complement the proposal presented earlier this week to reinforce the agricultural crisis reserve. Copa and Cogeca acknowledge that these announcements represent an initial positive step. However, these proposals should be seen for what they are: limited adjustments that leave the core issues untouched and fail to match the magnitude of the crisis that could hit European agriculture in the months ahead.**

Through Agriculture Commissioner Christophe Hansen, the Commission confirmed an increase in the agricultural crisis reserve, which should reach €540 million, while allowing Member States to complement this amount with additional national support. As we already underlined on Wednesday, this envelope represents a first attempt to respond to the crisis and should be welcomed. Nevertheless, it remains very limited when measured against the number of European farmers affected and the scale of the crisis that could unfold during the 2026–2027 agricultural season, particularly as these resources will not be used exclusively to address rising fertiliser costs. It also sidesteps a necessary debate on European mechanisms such as the CBAM, which structurally inflates fertiliser prices while leaving farmers to shoulder the full cost.

The flexibility offered to Member States to advance CAP direct payments and introduce a new liquidity scheme under rural development may help ease cashflow constraints for some farmers.

However, while redirecting existing CAP instruments may provide short-term relief for cash-flow pressures, it does not create new resources. It merely shifts funding from one purpose to another, meaning that any support made available today will inevitably reduce the resources available to farmers tomorrow. Furthermore, it may appear to provide a quick solution, but in practice it is far from immediate. Any modification requires negotiations at EU level, adjustments to national CAP Strategic Plans and administrative procedures that inevitably take time.



Farmers facing soaring input costs today need support that reaches them quickly, not after lengthy policy cycles.

Recent developments have already illustrated how rapidly fertiliser markets can be destabilised by geopolitical events. At a time when fertilisers remain one of the largest production costs in European agriculture—and the single largest input cost for many arable crop farmers—delays in delivering effective support risk undermining farm viability, food production and the affordability of food for European consumers.

Copa and Cogeca therefore reiterate their call for additional measures that can be implemented without delay and without significant budgetary implications. In particular, we urge the European institutions to introduce an immediate crisis derogation to the Nitrates Directive thresholds for manure and digestate, enabling farmers to make greater use of available nutrient sources, while improving transparency across fertiliser markets to prevent excessive volatility and speculation. We also call the Commission and the Council to immediately suspend CBAM for fertilisers.

The fertiliser crisis requires exceptional speed and determination. Copa and Cogeca now call on the Council and the European Parliament to adopt these first measures as swiftly as possible and to continue working on additional solutions that provide farmers with the certainty and practical support they urgently need. Europe's food security and agricultural resilience cannot afford delay.

**-END-**

Translations will be available in DE, ES, FR, IT, PL and RO on the Copa-Cogeca website soon.

About us - Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, we ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, while guaranteeing food security for 500 million people throughout Europe. >>> More information [www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)

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