

Ref. COMM(26)01369
12/06/2026

Statement

CBAM safeguard for fertilisers: Finance Ministers set the bar too high to be a genuine safety mechanism for farmers!

Today, Finance Ministers have adopted their General Approach on the Commission's proposal to strengthen the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). While the Iran crisis have pushed Member States to recognise the need for a safeguard mechanism for fertilisers through the inclusion of Article 27a, farmers and agri-cooperatives express deep disappointment that the agreed trigger threshold is set far too high to provide any meaningful protection in times of crisis.

Under the agreed approach, the safeguard would only be activated if imported fertiliser prices, excluding the CBAM financial liability itself, increase by more than 50% compared with the average of the previous ten years. In practice, such a threshold makes the mechanism extremely unlikely to be triggered, even in the event of severe market disruptions. However, since its entry into force on 1 January 2026, we have already seen, through the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, that the CBAM mechanism can exacerbate crises, effectively adding fuel to the fire. As the CBAM levy increases progressively towards its full application in 2034, the issue will arise with increasing intensity. In 2026, Copa and Cogeca estimate that this new mechanism will represent a €820 million burden that will be fully bear by EU farmers.

Given that fertilisers represent one of the main input costs for EU agriculture, and the primary cost for arable crop farmers, an ineffective safeguard mechanism leaves farmers fully exposed to extreme and sudden price increases, with direct consequences for farm viability, food production and food affordability for consumers. A crisis tool can only be effective if it is triggered before market conditions become unmanageable.

Copa and Cogeca therefore calls on the European Parliament to take a clear stance in defence of the farming sector and to propose a more realistic and operational trigger, ensuring that EU farmers and ultimately consumers are not left to bear the full cost of future market shocks.

-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

For further information, please contact

Bruno Menne
Director of Commodities
bruno.menne@copa-cogeca.eu

Jean-Baptiste Boucher
Communication Director
+32 474 84 08 36
jean-baptiste.boucher@copa-cogeca.eu

Press Release Mailing List

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

