

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: EU Commission Publishes Communication on the Availability and Affordability of Fertilizers

Country: European Union

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Report Category: Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

On November 9, 2022, the European Commission published a Communication on the availability and affordability of fertilizers to propose solutions to the important increase in prices that EU farmers are facing. The Communication was met with heavy criticism by European farmers who expected more impactful solutions.

On November 9, 2022, the European Commission published a Communication “[Ensuring availability and affordability of fertilizers](#).” The Commission notes that while fertilizers remain available in the EU, their affordability constitutes a challenge for EU farmers with a 149 percent price increase in September 2022 compared to September 2021 for nitrogen fertilizers. For the EU executive, the short-term goal of this Communication is to alleviate the difficulties EU farmers are facing while reducing dependence on Russian imports by diversifying production and supply chains.

The Communication lists actions for the Commission to take both domestically and internationally. This includes:

- Making use of the 2023 agricultural reserve, which is part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), for public intervention and storage measures to stabilize agricultural markets. This would make 450 million euros available to the Member States.
- The creation of a market observatory in 2023 for the fertilizer market to improve market transparency.
- The launch of a new European Innovation Council in 2023.
- The adoption of an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan in the beginning of 2023 to promote the more efficient use of nutrients.
- Continue to work with its international partners to avoid export restrictions on fertilizer trade and improve global market transparency.

The Communication was met with heavy criticism from the European farmers association, Copa-Cogeca. In [its press release](#) following the publication of the Communication, Copa-Cogeca notes that “the disappointment is as great as the expectations: this new communication simply failed to provide concrete answers to the shortcomings faced by European farmers”. Christiane Lambert, President of Copa stated, *“The pattern is repeated with this new communication. The European Commission, out of ideology, refuses to give farmers short-term solutions, putting the viability of many farms at risk. What is the point of presenting a new communication to finally put forward so few proposals? I find it difficult to understand the logic of such a communication in the end: for the long-term objectives, it seems to me that the Commission's vision is clear and known since 2019 and the launch of the Farm to Fork strategy. The rest of the proposals were already explained in the March communications.”*

Fertilizers Europe also [reacted](#) to the Communication with skepticism, noting that the industry welcomes the recognition of the European Commission that urgent and targeted action is required, but they feel a more comprehensive strategy is needed when it comes to the long-term future of the European industry and EU food security.

Attachments:

No Attachments.