

**Question for oral answer O-000034/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: The urgent need for an EU strategy on fertilisers to ensure food security in Europe

European agriculture is facing a looming crisis. This year the limited availability of fertiliser has led to the depletion of residual fertiliser reserves in soils, which poses a serious threat to European food production. In the interest of protecting food security on the continent, there is an urgent need to tackle current fertiliser shortages in the short term and begin the transition of European agriculture away from its dependency on synthetic fertilisers in the medium to long term. This transition will take time and will require a comprehensive and risk-assessed strategy.

In the short term, we must secure an adequate supply of fertiliser for our farmers. There are a number of options available, such as the sourcing of products outside the EU or the importation of raw materials necessary for fertiliser production, lifting anti-dumping measures, and financially supporting the transition to natural methods such as the use of clover and other nitrogen-fixing solutions.

The Commission must act now to address the unsustainable input costs facing farmers. Economic forecasts point to this issue worsening over the coming months, with further increases in costs to farmers in the midst of high inflation. The current high food prices experienced are in no small way due to the impact of high fertiliser costs. In order to avoid further inflationary pressures, a clear strategy to give confidence and security to the market is needed immediately.

1. Will the Commission draft a strategy on addressing the shortage of fertiliser in the EU?
2. Does the Commission intend to lift anti-dumping duties on fertiliser imports?
3. Can the Commission provide clarity on whether it is more cost effective to import fertiliser from third countries or to import gas from third countries for the production of fertilisers in Europe?

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