

21/05/2019

Press Release

Farmers welcome the adoption of the new Fertilisers Regulation, hoping that it will reduce ever-rising farming input costs

The new Fertilising Products Regulation has been adopted today by the Council and is expected to enter into force by July 2019 at the latest. The new Regulation harmonises the rules for the placing on the market of mineral and organic fertilisers, controlled release fertilisers and biostimulants. It also sets uniform limits for heavy metals, contaminants and pathogens.

The new rules should boost the production and availability of CE marked organic fertilisers. They should also provide European farmers with a greater choice of fertilising products by increasing the competition between fertilising products and offering substitution options.

European farmers welcome this news as they have been suffering from a competitive disadvantage compared with other producers in the world. This disadvantage is created because European mineral fertiliser manufacturers are protected from international competition by anti-dumping duties and customs tariffs at EU borders. Given that mineral fertilisers account for up to 45% of EU arable farmers' input costs and that market prices for grains remain low, this disadvantage is causing a cost-price squeeze, eating away at farmers' earnings.

Pekka Pesonen, Copa-Cogeca Secretary General, points out: *“The EU cereals sector has lost significant market shares over recent years, slipping from the world's second largest exporter three years ago to the fourth largest today. Fertiliser prices in the EU are much higher than those in other regions of the world, yet EU farmers and their cooperatives sell wheat and other cereals, whether for export or for the European market, at world market prices. This situation has created an imbalance which has a damaging impact on EU farmers' income. We hope that the new Regulation will help European farmers find new alternatives so that they can reduce their input costs.”*

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Translations (in French, Italian, Spanish, German and Polish) will be available soon
www.copacogeca.eu

For further information, please contact:

Dominique Dejonckheere
Senior Policy Advisor
dominique.dejonckheere@copa-cogeca.eu

Jean-Baptiste Boucher
Communications Director
Mobile: + 32 474 840 836
jean-baptiste.boucher@copa-cogeca.eu
