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EU Fertiliser Action Plan must deliver immediate relief and long-term resilience for land managers

Brussels, 19 May 2026 — The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) welcomes the publication of the European Commission's Fertiliser Action Plan as a necessary response to the growing pressure on Europe's farmers, landowners and rural businesses. Fertilisers remain essential to food production, farm viability and, but continued price volatility, linked to supply uncertainty and high energy costs are putting Europe's agricultural competitiveness under severe strain.

The Action Plan rightly recognises that fertiliser affordability and availability are no longer only market issues: they are central to Europe's food security, strategic autonomy and rural resilience. Indeed, ELO welcomes the Action Plan's focus on innovation, domestic production, with nutrient efficiency, circular fertilisers, digestates, biogas, biomethane and low-carbon alternatives. Landowners and rural entrepreneurs are eager to contribute to this transition through improved nutrient management, carbon farming, organic matter restoration, circular bioeconomy projects and investment in precision agriculture. But these solutions require legal certainty, workable rules and accessible funding.

However, for land managers facing immediate planting and investment decisions, the EU response must be faster, more concrete and better targeted.

"European farmers and landowners are already making decisions for the next production season. They need practical relief now, not only long-term transition pathways," said **Jurgen Tack**, ELO Secretary General. *"The Action Plan is an important signal, but it must be matched by immediate measures that reduce costs, secure supply and support the transition without undermining competitiveness."*

While the current proposal encourages the mid and long term initiatives as outlined in the plan, ELO believes that short-term relief is indispensable and should include a combination of tools. In particular, ELO calls for:

- **Immediate cost relief** for farmers and land managers facing exceptional fertiliser price increases.

- **A temporary and targeted review of CBAM impacts on fertilisers**, including the possible suspension or adjustment of CBAM obligations during the crisis period.
- **Greater flexibility in CAP and State aid tools** to support liquidity, nutrient efficiency and on-farm investment.
- **Faster recognition and market access for recycled, organic and bio-based fertilisers**, including digestates and recovered nutrients and support for the development of rural circular-economy infrastructure (such as biogas, biomethane, nutrient-recovery systems, and local processing capacity).
- **A fair transition framework** ensuring that farmers are not left to carry disproportionate costs from industrial decarbonisation and carbon pricing policies.

ELO stands ready to work with the European Commission, Member States and supply chain partners to ensure that the Fertiliser Action Plan delivers both immediate relief and a credible long-term pathway for resilient, competitive and sustainable European agriculture.

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About the European Landowners' Organization (ELO)

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) is a leading voice representing the interests of landowners, rural entrepreneurs, and rural land managers in Europe. ELO promotes sustainable land management practices, fosters innovation, and advocates for the recognition of landowners' crucial role in shaping Europe's landscapes and rural areas.