

Member of Cabinet Sinkevičius
Camilla Bursi
European Commission

7 February 2020

Via e-mail

Dear Camilla Bursi,

Concerning Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy

Fertilizers Europe represents the majority of fertilizer producers in Europe. Our sector is among the most energy intensive industries in the EU. Obviously, we are very interested in some of the opportunities in "The European Green Deal" like producing green ammonia for energy storage purposes and establishing a carbon border adjustment mechanism.

Given the important role that fertilisers has in European agriculture, we are clearly also concerned with the Farm to Fork Strategy, and given the rush to get the strategy out I request a meeting as soon as possible to discuss our proposals.

Some of the key issues for me is

- EU should aim to reduce use by increasing the Nutrient Use Efficiency. This is in line with present EU efforts to reduce losses to the environment and to maintain a competitive agriculture, and it allows for healthy plants.
- A methodology, baseline and available data to measure and assess the Nitrogen Use Efficiency at farm level has been developed by the EU Nitrogen Expert Panel, see www.eunep.com
- The strategy should be aligned with EU regulation 2019/1009 on EU fertilising products and its definitions. It should thus encompass all nutrient sources, i.e. mineral and organic fertilisers as well as manure
- The strategy should consider that organic sources of fertilizers and the accompanying environmental problems are distributed very un-evenly across the EU. For this reason, ceilings on use will discriminate strongly between member states as agriculture, animal husbandry and fertiliser use still are very different across the EU.

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- The role of fertilisers in terms of biodiversity should be underlined. A strong and healthy crop obviously limits biodiversity on that plot of land, but the increase in productivity frees up other areas to be devoted to maintaining and restoring biodiversity.

Hoping that you will be able to provide me with a date for a meeting before long, I remain

Yours sincerely,

