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To the Environment
Permanent Representatives
to the European Union

To the Agricultural Permanent
Representatives to the
European Union

To the Economic,
Commercial,
And Financial
Permanent
Representatives to the
European Union

Brussels, 04 May 2026

RE: Call to immediately suspend the CBAM for fertilisers through article 122.1 of the TFUE and ensure that article 27a of the CBAM Regulation is fit for future

Dear Permanent Representative,

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the current situation faced by EU farmers due to the sharp and ongoing increase in fertiliser prices. The combination of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), market uncertainty, and the crisis in the Middle East has created an untenable situation on the ground.

Fertilisers typically account for between 15% and 30% of farmers' production costs. As such, any significant price increase severely impacts farmers' margins. Around 30% of the nitrogen fertilisers used in the EU are imported, meaning that the CBAM levy on these imports has a substantial effect. Since the beginning of 2026, fertiliser prices have risen sharply. In January and February alone, following the implementation of CBAM, prices increased on average by 15% compared to November 2025 levels, with urea rising from below €500 per tonne to €570–600 per tonne. The situation has since worsened significantly, notably due to the war in Iran, with urea prices now exceeding €800 per tonne and continuing to rise.

While the most recent increases are linked to geopolitical developments, the CBAM levy alone represents an average price increase of around 15% for imported fertilisers in 2026. Moreover, EU-produced fertilisers have aligned their prices accordingly. The CBAM levy is also set to increase progressively until 2034.

The cost of the CBAM levy itself is estimated at around €820 million in 2026, rising to €3.386 billion in 2034. Over the next seven years, this amounts to approximately €12 billion, equivalent to more than 3% of the current CAP budget. However, if EU-produced fertilisers continue to align their prices with imported ones, the overall cost of CBAM over the next seven years could reach approximately €39 billion, equivalent to around 10% of the current CAP budget.



The reality is that EU farmers will bear these costs, which they cannot afford, especially in the context of additional price increases driven by external factors such as the current crisis.

Furthermore, increase in fertilisers prices during these crises also represent a risk for food security and adds to inflationary pressure. Consequently, the possibility to temporarily suspend CBAM for fertilisers in times of crisis is essential. In this context, we urge you to take immediate action on two fronts:

- First, we call for the immediate suspension of CBAM on fertilisers. Given the urgency of the situation, we believe that Article 122(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be used to immediately suspend CBAM on fertilisers, and adopt other swift emergency measures to alleviate the situation. Waiting for the adoption and implementation of Article 27a of the CBAM Regulation would take too long and would not address the current crisis in time. Immediate relief is essential to ensure that farmers can access the inputs they need for this season.
- Second, ahead of the upcoming meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Party on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on 5th May and the discussion on the new Presidency draft compromise, we call on you to ensure that Article 27a provides for a robust and effective safeguard mechanism. In particular, it should allow for the suspension of CBAM on specific goods for as long as necessary to prevent harm to the internal market. Limiting such a suspension to one year, renewable once, would be insufficient in a context where price volatility and supply disruptions may persist.

If fertiliser prices remain at current levels, or continue to increase, the consequences for EU farmers will be severe and long-lasting. This would inevitably impact food production and affordability, which cannot be ignored.

We call upon you to ensure a timely and adequate response to this urgent situation.

Yours faithfully,



Elli Tsiforou
Secretary General

