

Statement on proposal for EU regulation on fertiliser trade

We are representatives of the environmental research communities from several countries surrounding the Baltic Sea. We have come together to recognise that the EU Commission's proposal for a new regulation on fertiliser trade is an important tool to combat eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. We therefore call upon you to support the proposal.

In March 2016 the European Commission presented a proposal for a new regulation on fertiliser trade.¹ The proposal is part of the EU's work with circular economy and aims to address serious problems in the market relating to trade in fertiliser products, which includes both organic and mineral fertilisers. The exclusion of organic fertilisers from current EU legislation is detrimental to the recycling of nutrients. The proposed regulation is therefore intended to ensure common quality standards for fertiliser products manufactured in line with the circular economy. The main objective is to incentivise large scale fertiliser production in the EU from domestic organic or secondary raw materials, in line with the circular economy model. This will increase the recycling of nutrients which reduces the risk of leakage to the waters creating eutrophication.

The fact that the Baltic Sea is a eutrophic, very sensitive inland sea, is well known. A wide range of measures in many different areas are needed in order to reduce the causes and consequences of eutrophication. Closing the nutrient cycle and reducing the input of new nitrogen and phosphorus sources is a critical part of the solution. Addressing the imbalance between numbers of livestock and area of arable land in leakage vulnerable regions is another solution. Because the Baltic Sea situation is so acute, urgent action is needed. And we believe that the proposed regulation is needed to tighten the recycling of nutrients in order to improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea.

¹European Parliament and Council Regulation COM (2016) 157 on the making available on the market of CE marked fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009.

We hereby call upon you to support the EU Commission proposal for a new regulation for fertiliser trade.

Yours Sincerely

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