

LETTER(25)01449

To the Ministers for Agriculture –  
European Union

Brussels, 22 May 2025

**Subject: RENURE approval in the upcoming Nitrates Committee meeting**

Dear Minister of Agriculture,

We welcome the European Commission's commitment to support the uptake of circular fertilisers – RENURE – as announced in both the Vision for Agriculture and Food and the Clean Industrial Deal.

Using fossil-free, low-carbon, recycled nutrients to produce organic fertilisers will reduce external dependencies, increase competitiveness and accelerate the decarbonization pathway to a net-zero Europe. As such, allowing farmers to create and use RENURE contributes to food security and the European Union's open strategic autonomy. Increasing circularity in nutrient cycles will be to the benefit of the farmer, the environment and European society.

The urgency of enabling the use of RENURE products as an alternative to chemical fertilisers is ever-increasing. Especially considering the surge in prices for chemical fertilisers of over the past years, and even possible future price increases due to geopolitical tensions and possible tariffs. It is therefore very regrettable that the Nitrates Committee has not been able to approve the Commission's draft Directive amending Council Directive 91/676/EEC as regards the use of certain fertilising materials from livestock manure.

Additionally, we would like to highlight concerns that remain regarding the content of the proposal. Regrettably, the amendment is not fully aligned with the RENURE criteria developed by the Joint Research Centre. By laying down a limitative list of approved production methods ('processing treatments'), the draft amendment completely stifles innovation aimed at new, improved production methods – in direct opposition to Commission's ambitions concerning competitiveness. Furthermore, a new limitation of 100 kg N/ha/year from RENURE is proposed in the amendment. As the key characteristic of RENURE is that the products are or behave identical to synthetic fertiliser, no such limitation should be included. Other issues need also to be addressed - for a fuller review of adjustments to the amendment that will allow farmers throughout the EU to improve the circularity of nutrients, we refer to our input to the consultation.<sup>1</sup>

All in all, adoption of this amendment, even more if in line with the JRC's recommendations, will enable farmers to use RENURE products as an alternative to chemical fertiliser, relieving some pressure of the European chemical fertiliser market, all while contributing to the objectives of the Nitrates directive.

**We therefore urgently call on you to take the necessary steps to ensure that your national representative in the Nitrates Committee approves the amendment in the upcoming meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.**

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<sup>1</sup> Consultation input from: [Copa-Cogeca](#); [European Biogas Association](#); [CEMA](#)

Sincerely yours,



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EBA



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