

## POLICY BRIEF

# European Parliament draft resolution on fertilisers

### BACKGROUND

On 9/11/2022, the European Commission published a communication on “[Ensuring availability and affordability of fertilisers](#)”. The communication was proposing a series of short-term and long-term actions to respond to the global mineral fertiliser and energy crisis, including the promotion of biomethane, organic fertilisers and green ammonia.

On 31/01/2023, the AGRI Committee of the European Parliament approved by 38 votes to 7 and 2 abstentions the [draft resolution 2022/2982\(RSP\)](#) in reaction to the Commission communication. The draft resolution was proposed by Norbert Lins (German MEP from the EPP).

The AGRI Committee considers that the measures proposed by the EU Commission in its communication are not sufficient to address the crisis and calls for further action to be taken promptly to avoid new dependencies on fertiliser/energy imports. The draft text contains a list of short/medium/long-term actions recommended by the Committee. Several recommendations are particularly interesting for the biogas/biomethane sector, notably regarding [current regulatory barriers to the use of RENURE](#).

### USEFUL LINKS

- European Commission [Communication](#) COM/2022/590 final/2
- [Factsheet](#) summarising the Communication COM/2022/590 final/2
- [Information](#) on the EU fertiliser market
- [Press release](#) from the European Parliament on “Fertilisers: Tackle dependence and ensure transition to sustainable and organic”
- [Draft motion for a European Parliament resolution](#) 2022/2982(RSP)
- [Amendments](#) proposed on the European Parliament resolution 2022/2982(RSP)
- [EU Nitrates Directive](#) 91/676/EEC

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR BIOGAS/BIOMETHANE?

In the [EU Nitrates Directive](#), nitrogen fertilising products made from manure are defined as manure and thus must respect the 170 kg of nitrogen per hectare per year limitation in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.

In the draft resolution, the AGRI committee calls for:

- The amendment of Annex III to the Nitrates Directive so that it facilitates the use of **RENURE** (“REcovered Nitrogen from manURE”)
- The adoption of new rules on a balanced nitrogen budget per holding, including **exemptions from the limit of 170 kg of nitrogen per hectare per year** for organic fertilisers in specific areas of Member States and regions with favourable climatic conditions.

These two linked recommendations, if they were to be followed by the EU Commission, would represent a strong opportunity for the biogas/biomethane sector.

### NEXT STEPS

A European Parliament resolution is a non-legally binding text but it could potentially influence the EU Commission to address more thoroughly and rapidly the RENURE issue. The draft resolution should be voted on in one of the next plenary sessions of the European Parliament, probably in February.

EBA Secretariat will continue to monitor this issue.

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