



## ESPP policy action proposals from ESPC2

Stakeholders wishing to contribute to defining and implementing these proposals can join the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform [www.phosphorusplatform.eu](http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu) and/or national nutrient platforms (where established: Netherlands, Flanders, Germany, or underway: UK, France, Norway, Baltic ...).

Phosphorus (P) is a non-renewable resource, non-substitutable for agriculture and food production and directly linked to global food security, as well as being important in a range of other industrial and technical uses.

The world's mineral phosphate reserves are finite, so that although there is debate about their extent and extractability and about their geographical concentration, the need for phosphorus stewardship will endure, generating new jobs and business opportunities.

At the same time, P losses pose major environmental issues. Phosphorus is the principal contributor to surface water quality failure (eutrophication) in much of Europe, whilst Europe's population eats around twice as much P as is required for health and globally the P footprint of human diets continues to increase.

These issues have synergies with other challenges, including sustainable biosolids management, nitrogen and micro-nutrients, soil organic carbon, soil erosion, water treatment, food waste, contaminants and food safety, global food security.

Improving the efficiency of P processing and use, in industry, agriculture, livestock production, food processing and diet, and developing P reuse or recovery-recycling can save money, contribute to reducing nutrient pollution, and create jobs in the circular economy.

1. Make phosphorus a flagship for stewardship, reuse and recycling in the new EU Commission's **Circular Economy proposals** in 2015, to develop innovation and sustainable local jobs
2. Carry through the revision of the **EU Fertiliser Regulation** to take in recycled phosphates, composts, digestates, etc., with clear definitions and criteria for each product category (agronomic functions, quality, safety, labelling ...)
3. Facilitate **phosphorus recycling from animal by-products**, subject to stringent safety criteria (adaptation of the Animal By Products Directive and inclusion in revised EU Fertiliser Regulation)

4. Exonerate recycled P & N products from **Nitrates Directive limits for manure in a "processed form"**, if they are non-organic with agronomic properties comparable to mineral fertilisers (see SCOPE 100)
5. Develop policies, in particular **education and consumer information**, to encourage **diets with lower P footprints**
6. Reduce phosphorus losses in **food waste** by reducing food wastage and reusing or recycling nutrients from non-avoidable food waste (e.g. separate collection, (co-) composting or digestion)
7. Implement in appropriate European institutions (EEA, Eurostat, JRC ...) reporting coherent **data monitoring of phosphorus and nitrogen mass-flows, concentrations and sinks**, at regional and national levels
8. Define **national/regional objectives and action plans for phosphorus efficiency, reuse and/or recycling**. In particular, **fix targets for phosphorus reuse and recycling from sewage / sewage biosolids**
9. Assess both phosphorus-in-general (P) and other specific forms of phosphorus as **EU Critical Raw Materials**, in addition to phosphate rock
10. Establish **coherent policies across Europe to reduce phosphorus losses from agriculture**, based on soil P status and crop needs, including precision nutrient management, buffers along watercourses, soil erosion mitigation ...
11. Define, through an inclusive stakeholder consultation methodology, an **EU Research, Innovation and Integration Agenda** for phosphorus sustainability, covering research, demonstration, implementation, information, skills and training. This should input to Horizon 2020 and the EIPs on Raw Materials, Water and Sustainable Agriculture.
12. **Harmonise EU regulatory frameworks and policies** to facilitate P stewardship: in addition to those above: e.g. water, sewage and biosolids, soil, bio-resources, consumer and health, international, rural development ...