

Memorandum of Understanding

between



Vlaams Nutriëntenplatform
Graaf Karel de Goedelaan 34
B-8500 Kortrijk, Belgium



Deutsche Phosphor-Plattform
Brentanostrasse 2
53755 Alzenau, Germany



Nederlands Nutrient Platform
Bezuidenhoutseweg 2
2594 AV Den Haag, The Netherlands

Deutsche Phosphor-Plattform (DPP)

The German Phosphorus Platform intends to bring together the knowledge and experience of participants from relevant industries, public and private organisations and from research and development facilities with the objective of achieving the sustainable use of the valuable vital substance phosphorus. In cooperation with the participants a phosphorus usage management is created, which combines efficiency, recycling and substitution strategies, while also developing and promoting a consumption of phosphorus in Germany that will be sustainable in the future. The coordination and networking tasks of DPP are managed by the Fraunhofer Project Group IWKS.

Vlaams Nutriëntenplatform (VNP)

The Flemish Nutrient Platform connects entrepreneurs, governments and researchers with the objective to achieve efficient nutrient management. Flanders has a large quantity of nutrients available in manure, organic bio-waste, wastewater, wastewater sludge etc. Nutrients are essential to ensure global food security, however security of supply is not guaranteed. At the same time the treatment of these wastestreams involves increasing costs. By smartly closing the nutrient value chain, both challenges (global scarcity versus local surplus) can be turned into an opportunity. VNP is hosted by Vlaams Kenniscentrum Water (VLAKWA).

Nederlands Nutrient Platform (NNP)

The Netherlands Nutrient Platform (NNP) is a cross-sectoral network of Dutch organizations that share a common concern for the global impact of phosphorus depletion and the way society is dealing with nutrients. NNP takes up the responsibility to facilitate more than 30 organizations throughout the value chain in closing the phosphorus cycle. They all share the ambition of creating a sustainable market within two years, where as many reusable phosphorus streams as possible will be returned to the cycle in an environment-friendly way and where secondary phosphorus will be exported to the fullest extent possible. NNP is hosted by the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP).

§ 1 Motivation

Each platform individually aims to facilitate businesses, knowledge institutes, NGOs and governments in creating the right conditions for economically viable business cases involving nutrient recycling. More than often however these business cases are not bound to the borders of countries, but instead rely on a value chain that extends into multiple countries.

A particularly interesting region to be holistically addressed is the region covered by Germany, Flanders and the Netherlands, since these countries are already frontrunners in nutrient management and recycling.

Therefore a combined effort of DPP, VNP and NNP to jointly address opportunities that are cross-national in nature can provide added value to all three platforms, and can moreover be beneficial to the creation of a European market for recycled phosphorus.

§ 2 Objectives

The platforms intend to closely cooperate in speeding up the transition towards sustainable nutrient management by creating cross-national business cases. This will take part in the context of strengthening the European market for recycled phosphorus, which is one of the objectives of the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform, with which we will collaborate closely. The need for such a European market is stressed by (1) the risk of growing scarcity of phosphorus in the world market, (2) geopolitical risk of instability in phosphorus mining countries and (3) the risk of environmental pollution and associated costs.

By working together the platforms can accelerate shaping the necessary conditions for nutrient recycling business, allowing nutrient cycles to be closed more efficiently. Consequently the platforms recognize that:

1. Cross-national partnerships can increase the economic viability of business cases;
2. Platform cooperation can strengthen our shared aim to harmonize European legislation with regard to efficient and more sustainable nutrient recycling

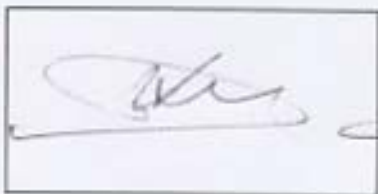
§ 3 Implementation

The platforms intend to realize these objectives by:

1. Close cooperation of the platform coordinators in addressing shared nutrient opportunities;
2. Coordination, initiation and facilitation of cross-national business cases with the ambition to create at least 3 succesful cross-national business cases within 2 years;
3. Exchange of information on actual and general developments in nutrient recycling;
4. A coordinated approach towards the necessary changes in European legislation.

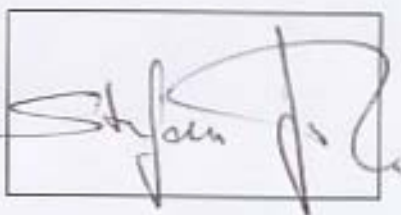
§ 4 Level of Commitment

1. This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the intention of the platforms. It is not intended to create any binding obligation;
2. Nothing in this agreement shall authorize one platform to act in the name and/or on behalf of the other platform;
3. The Memorandum of Understanding shall have a duration of two years. The term shall automatically renew for a period of 1 year unless a platform objects to such extension.



Dirk Halet

on behalf of
Vlaams Nutriëntenplatform



Prof. Dr. Stefan Gäth

on behalf of
Deutsche Phosphor-Plattform



Wouter de Buck

on behalf of
Nederlands Nutrient Platform