Our organisations jointly underline the importance of addressing a number of important outstanding issues in the proposed EU Fertilising Products Regulation, including those indicated below. Not all of our organisations are directly concerned by all of the points listed, but we consider that they require attention to achieve a final regulatory text which is workable in implementation, which will facilitate innovation and development of the nutrient circular economy and nutrient stewardship, whilst ensuring the protection of farmers, consumers and the environment.

The signatories call the co-legislators to conclude this important dossier rapidly, because implementation is strongly awaited by industry and stakeholders to develop the Circular Economy, whilst ensuring dialogue with industry and operators to ensure that the final text is functional.

In this context, the European Parliament report adopted 24/10/17 and the Council discussions provide in many respects a good starting point for trilogue discussions.

We particularly underline the following issues:

Positive from the European Parliament as adopted

A. Confirm the proposed “Mineral” (<1% organic carbon) and “Low-carbon” fertilisers definitions both in Annex I (PFCs) and Annex III (labelling).

B. Need to resolve the exclusion of industry by-products, which are not waste, as highlighted by the European Parliament.

C. Importance of developing implementation guidance and of ensuring assessment of Regulation implementation.

D. Favour the co-existence of production lines for CE-marked and National fertilisers on the same production sites by validating the production site if lines for the processing of input materials authorised are clearly separated from production lines for the processing of other input materials.

E. Confirm the objective to accelerate and support the “STRUBIAS” process.

F. Polymers, for controlled release fertilisers and for improving stability: ensure that biodegradability criteria are feasible and agronomically appropriate.
Positive from both Parliament and Council

G. **Animal By Products (ABPs):** in order to enable access to EU fertiliser status of ABP-based products already used as fertilisers today, fix a short deadline (6 months) for finalizing CMC11 and for engaging appropriate modification of the ABP Regulation and its delegated acts to ensure coherence for fertiliser uses.

H. **Respect normal REACH requirements** (tonnage bands, exempted materials) for relevant CMCs.

I. **Widen** (with appropriate limitations to clean and safe materials):
   - CMC4 (Energy Crop Digestate) to admit other plant materials;
   - CMC3 (Compost) and CMC5 (Other digestates) to admit secondary materials from the food industry;
   - CMC6 (Food Industry By-Products) to add specified additional materials;
   - CMC2 (Processed Plant Materials) to extend the specified list of processes.

In all cases:
‡ **clarify that biowastes** (as defined in Directive 2008/98/EC) or materials susceptible to contain biowastes should only be admitted in CMCs which ensure appropriate sanitisation (CMC3 and CMC5);
‡ **pathogens and plant pathogens:** safety must be ensured, but limits should only be applied where input materials pose potential risks.

Problematic from Parliament

J. **Labelling:** While users need sufficient information for informed decisions, **not everything should be included on labels** to ensure workability, legibility, protect trade secrets and so enable innovation. The requirement to label all CMCs > 1% is disproportionate.

K. **Avoid future requirements for “double sanitisation” of ABPs, e.g. of animal manures:** ABPs should not be required to already have reached an ABP End Point if they enter a composting or anaerobic digestion process which ensures sanitisation appropriate for the relevant ABP category. Clarify and ensure coherence between CMC11 and other CMCs, e.g. animal manures and other ABPs in composts and digestates)

Issues remaining to be confirmed

L. Important to **maintain COM delegation for Annexes I-IV** to enable innovation in recycling and technological progress, and to enable adjustment of implementation (this is complex new legislation and the first time that many of the concerned product families are regulated at the EU level)

M. **Nutrient definitions and solubility.**

   In all relevant PFC criteria: specify appropriately solubility criteria and organic / inorganic forms of nutrients:
‡ in PFC criteria for mineral (and “low-carbon”) fertilisers: keep in Annex I (PFCs) the three phosphorus solubility criteria, that is: in water OR citric acid OR neutral ammonium citrate (NAC) – important: “or” not “and”;
‡ for other concerned PFCs, the COM original proposed specifications for phosphorus and nitrogen are appropriate and should not be modified.

N. In all cases, relevant solubility requirements have to be included at the PFC level and coherence should be ensured between PFC criteria and labelling.

O. **Clarify definitions (what is measured, how, where, when)** of “product lot” (Annex IV) and ensure coherence between tolerances and nutrient requirements. Definitions must be compatible with real industry and distributor practice, with material characteristics and their evolution during transport and storage, and with market surveillance feasibility. They must be specific to and adapted to each PFC.
P. **Biostimulants**: in addition to the proposed positive list, a pathway must be provided to enable companies to introduce innovative products based on newly identified microorganisms that have been appropriately assessed for safety and function\textsuperscript{xviii}.

Q. A more **precise definition for PFC 2 Liming material\textsuperscript{1}** and a higher minimum neutralizing value of 25 (equivalent CaO) or 15 equivalent (HO-) on the gross mass of the product to ensure sufficient efficiency.

R. **Contaminants**: to our knowledge, there is no scientific justification for lowering any of the contaminant levels below those set in the COM regulatory proposal text\textsuperscript{2}, and to do so could pose significant obstacles to nutrient recycling or to the use of certain natural feedstocks as raw materials\textsuperscript{3}. Furthermore the arsenic limit should be expressed in terms of inorganic arsenic because organic arsenic is not considered problematic\textsuperscript{4}.

S. **Copper and zinc** are essential micronutrients and should remain as labelling requirements only in fertilisers and soil improvers, not limits. Labelling of these elements is not relevant for liming materials PFC2 and inorganic soil improvers PFC3(B).

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The amendment numbers below refer to the European Parliament adopted report of 24/10/2017. They are given to facilitate referencing but do not imply support of the wording of these amendments

\textsuperscript{i} 2, 105, 132, 170, 303, and change “inorganic fertiliser” to “mineral fertiliser” throughout

\textsuperscript{ii} 15, 24, 89, 220, 222, 281

\textsuperscript{iii} 44, 102, 103

\textsuperscript{iv} 240, 248 and 258

\textsuperscript{v} 14, 30, 81

\textsuperscript{vi} 275

\textsuperscript{vii} 11, 12, 13, 30, 35 80, 87, 93, 280

\textsuperscript{viii} 222

\textsuperscript{ix} 233, 238, 239, 251, 256, 257, 296

\textsuperscript{x} 262, 263, 264 = widens to olive processing products and to catalogued feed materials

\textsuperscript{xi} 228, 229

\textsuperscript{xii} 242, 315 = authorise bio-waste in CMC4 = problematic

\textsuperscript{xiii} 282

\textsuperscript{xiv} 231

\textsuperscript{xv} 33, 80, 91

\textsuperscript{xvi} for PFC1(C): 133 appropriate with “or” but 143, 147, 158, 164, 295, 296 inappropriate

\textsuperscript{xvii} for PFC1(A) and PFC1(B): 127, 287, 292, 293 310 inappropriate

\textsuperscript{xviii} 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 94, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218

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\textsuperscript{1} Proposed definition “liming material: a product aimed at correcting soil acidity, which then improves physical, chemical and biological soil properties, and which contains oxides, hydroxides, carbonates and/or silicates of the nutrients calcium (Ca) or magnesium (Mg)”.

\textsuperscript{2} Lower limits were proposed for lead and arsenic in amendments submitted to the European Parliament Plenary, but these were not voted.

\textsuperscript{3} E.g. arsenic in seaweed.

\textsuperscript{4} See EFSA https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical_safety/contaminants/catalogue/arsenic_en
Contacts for further information:

European Biogas Association (EBA), [http://european-biogas.eu](http://european-biogas.eu)  /  Franz Kirchmeyr, Vice-President  
or Nicolas de la Vega  [delavega@european-biogas.eu](mailto:delavega@european-biogas.eu) +32 2 400 1082

European Biostimulants Industry Council (EBIC), [www.biostimulants.eu](http://www.biostimulants.eu)  
Kristen Sukalac  [Kristen@prospero.ag](mailto:Kristen@prospero.ag) +33 6 99 51 94 34

European Consortium of the Organic-Based Fertilizer-Industry (ECOFI), [www.ecofi.info](http://www.ecofi.info)  
Chiara Manoli  [CManoli@ilsagroup.com](mailto:CManoli@ilsagroup.com) +39 3477 845 110 
or Benoît Planques, President  [benoit.planques@italpollina.com](mailto:benoit.planques@italpollina.com) +33 6 33 69 22 10

European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFRA), [http://efra.eu](http://efra.eu)  
Dr. Martin Alm, Technical Director  [mail@dr-alm.eu](mailto:mail@dr-alm.eu) +49 170 4507797

European Federation for Agricultural Recycling (EFAR), [www.efar.be](http://www.efar.be)  
Hubert Brunet (SEDE) President  [hubert.brunet@sede.fr](mailto:hubert.brunet@sede.fr) +33 611 648 330.

European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (Eureau), [www.eureau.org](http://www.eureau.org)  
Bertrand Vallet, Policy Officer,  [bertrand.vallet@eureau.org](mailto:bertrand.vallet@eureau.org) +32 2 706 40 80

European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP), [www.phosphorusplatform.eu](http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu)  
Chris Thornton, Secretariat,  [info@phosphorusplatform.eu](mailto:info@phosphorusplatform.eu) +33 474 93 07 93

European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFRA), [http://efra.eu](http://efra.eu)  
Dr. Martin Alm, Technical Director  [mail@dr-alm.eu](mailto:mail@dr-alm.eu) +49 170 4507797

European Federation for Agricultural Recycling (EFAR), [www.efar.be](http://www.efar.be)  
Hubert Brunet (SEDE) President  [hubert.brunet@sede.fr](mailto:hubert.brunet@sede.fr) +33 611 648 330.

European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (Eureau), [www.eureau.org](http://www.eureau.org)  
Bertrand Vallet, Policy Officer,  [bertrand.vallet@eureau.org](mailto:bertrand.vallet@eureau.org) +32 2 706 40 80

European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP), [www.phosphorusplatform.eu](http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu)  
Chris Thornton, Secretariat,  [info@phosphorusplatform.eu](mailto:info@phosphorusplatform.eu) +33 474 93 07 93

European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFRA), [http://efra.eu](http://efra.eu)  
Dr. Martin Alm, Technical Director  [mail@dr-alm.eu](mailto:mail@dr-alm.eu) +49 170 4507797

European Federation for Agricultural Recycling (EFAR), [www.efar.be](http://www.efar.be)  
Hubert Brunet (SEDE) President  [hubert.brunet@sede.fr](mailto:hubert.brunet@sede.fr) +33 611 648 330.

European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (Eureau), [www.eureau.org](http://www.eureau.org)  
Bertrand Vallet, Policy Officer,  [bertrand.vallet@eureau.org](mailto:bertrand.vallet@eureau.org) +32 2 706 40 80

European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP), [www.phosphorusplatform.eu](http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu)  
Chris Thornton, Secretariat,  [info@phosphorusplatform.eu](mailto:info@phosphorusplatform.eu) +33 474 93 07 93

Federchimica Assosfertilizzanti (Italy national federation of fertiliser producers) [www.federchimica.it](http://www.federchimica.it)  
Lorenzo Faregna, Director  [L_Faregna@federchimica.it](mailto:L_Faregna@federchimica.it) +39 02 345 65 218

Fertilizers Europe, [www.fertilizerseurope.com](http://www.fertilizerseurope.com)  
Tiffany Stéphani, Agriculture & Environment Manager  [Tiffany.Stephani@fertilizerseurope.com](mailto:Tiffany.Stephani@fertilizerseurope.com) +32 472 798 435

Flanders centre for coordination of manure processing (VCM), [http://www.vcm-mestverwerking.be](http://www.vcm-mestverwerking.be)  
Emilie Snauwaert  [Emilie.Snaeuwaert@vcm-mestverwerking.be](mailto:Emilie.Snaeuwaert@vcm-mestverwerking.be) +32 50 40 72 04 
or  [info@vcm-mestverwerking.be](mailto:info@vcm-mestverwerking.be) +32 50 407 201

French federation for manufacturers of soil improvers, growing media, organic and organo-mineral fertilizers, mulches and biostimulants (AFAIA) [www.afaia.fr](http://www.afaia.fr)  
Laurent Largant, general delegate  [laurent.largant@afaia.fr](mailto:laurent.largant@afaia.fr) +33 2 41 20 19 09

Growing Media Europe, [www.growing-media.eu](http://www.growing-media.eu)  
Cecilia Luetsgebrune, Secretary General,  [cecilia.luetsgebrune@growing-media.eu](mailto:cecilia.luetsgebrune@growing-media.eu) +32 483 44 99 17

Industrial Minerals Association - Europe (IMA), [www.ima-europe.eu](http://www.ima-europe.eu)  
Dr. R. Doome, Secretary General,  [r.doome@ima-europe.eu](mailto:r.doome@ima-europe.eu) +32 2 210 44 20

UNIFA (Union des industries de la fertilisation, France), [www.unifa.fr](http://www.unifa.fr)  
Florence Catrycke, Regulation and Standardization Manager,  [fcatrycke@unifa.fr](mailto:fcatrycke@unifa.fr) +33 1 46 53 11 36