

EBIC statement of support for ECOFI position paper: Unlocking Innovation and Circularity in EU Fertilising Products – A Criteria-Based Pathway for New Materials under the FPR

The European Biostimulants Industry Council (EBIC) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to ongoing discussions on the future development of the Fertilising Products Regulation (FPR), particularly regarding mechanisms to enable access to the FPR for new component materials that support innovation, circularity and sustainability.

ECOFI's position paper *"Unlocking Innovation and Circularity in EU Fertilising Products: A Criteria-Based Pathway for New Materials under the FPR"* (May 2025) outlines a structured, science-based approach to evaluating new materials, either through:

- the introduction of a horizontal section in Annex II defining general inclusion criteria, or
- the creation of a new Component Material Category (CMC) based on those criteria.

EBIC supports the objectives of this proposal, namely, to reduce regulatory bottlenecks and enable the safe use of innovative and revalorised materials, while maintaining high environmental and safety standards. We agree that the current positive-list approach under the FPR can delay the uptake of safe and effective materials, and welcome efforts to explore proportionate solutions grounded in Article 42(1) of the FPR.

At the same time, EBIC recognises that the precise technical, procedural and legal implementation of such a mechanism will require further clarification. We therefore support the paper in principle, and encourage continued dialogue among stakeholders to assess the feasibility and implications of the proposed pathways in more detail.

We view this proposal as a timely and constructive contribution to the ongoing technical study on new materials being led by the Nutrient Management Instituut (NMI), and to the broader FPR evaluation. EBIC remains committed to supporting the development of a workable, science-based and innovation-friendly regulatory framework that is consistent with the goals of the FPR and wider EU policy priorities.



EBIC is the European Biostimulants Industry Council, the trade association for plant biostimulants in Europe. Founded in 2011, our vision is sustainable agriculture supported by the global adoption of plant biostimulants. We are dedicated to fostering the growth, development and fair regulation of our industry. We promote plant biostimulants as essential to advanced food systems, providing education, advocacy, and support to members, policymakers, and farmers.

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