Courtesy translation

Opinion

of the Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

on Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules on the making available on the market of CE marked fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009

COM(2016)157

adopted at the meeting of 10 May 2016.

1. The Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Poland (FEUAC) welcomes the initiative of the European Commission – in line with the circular economy model – to extend the scope of the regulation in order to make better use of products derived from vegetable and animal waste as fertilisers and to recycle nutrients in agriculture.

2. However, in the opinion of the FEUAC, the introduction of restrictive limits of undesirable substances in mineral fertilisers will reduce the number of available phosphate deposits and reduce the availability of this raw material on the EU market. As a result, this will strengthen the position of suppliers vis-à-vis fertilisers manufacturers. Restrictions imposed on raw materials that are the source of phosphorus will lead to an increase in fertiliser prices, which will be passed mainly on to farmers. The FEUAC believes that the call for reduction of heavy metals content in soil is appropriate. However, the maximum levels of cadmium and nickel proposed by the EC are thought to be too restrictive from the point of view of the functioning of the fertiliser industry.

3. While accepting the general direction of the proposed legislation aimed at better utilisation of waste products by using them as fertilisers, the FEUAC wishes to point out that the introduction of the end-of-waste status rule brings a number of threats for the maintenance of an adequate condition of the farmed environment and for the safety of the food produce. In the opinion of the FEUAC, the provisions should be limited to the so called "non-hazardous" waste, excluding the possibility to use e.g. sewage sludge, which exhibits a strong variability of properties and pollutants.