On behalf of the signatory organisations indicated below (list of signatories updated 16/11/2018)

To: Rapporteurs for the European Parliament and for Council, to Shadow Rapporteurs and Member States Permanent Representatives to Council
To: Elżbieta Bieńkowska,
European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
To: Jyrki Katainen,
European Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness

Object: Conclusion of the EU Fertilising Products Regulation

Dear Rapporteurs, dear Ms Bieńkowska, dear Mr Katainen

The Circular Economy in Europe is a core element of the current European Commission’s strategic objectives.

The proposed new EU Fertilising Products Regulation is a flagship initiative of the Commission’s Circular Economy Package. It is an ambitious legislative proposal which will open a new approach to product legislation, important for the development of the Circular Economy because it addresses barriers for recycled materials.

This new Regulation is strongly awaited by industry and stakeholders to enable development of secondary fertilising products, to open the European market for recycling technologies and to stimulate investment in new processes. Furthermore, safety and quality will be clarified, and farmers will have better information and better choice of product, with co-existence of both EU-Label and national fertilisers.

Circularity in the fertilising products industries means employment, including many non-displaceable jobs in rural areas (where recyclable nutrient materials such as manure or crop by-products are produced), and reduced dependency on imports. Estimations suggest that recycling of all biowaste in Europe would generate 320 000 direct and indirect jobs. The mineral fertilisers industry already today employs nearly 100 000 people in Europe with more than half of its products using by-products as inputs. Phosphorus recycling alone could create some 60 000 new jobs. (Different sources)

However, we are increasingly concerned that this frontrunner legislative proposal of the current Commission’s Circular Economy objectives may in fact not achieve adoption. The proposal is, it seems, “stuck” in trilogue. There appear to be both political blockages and also difficulties to finalise workable solutions on important technical issues. These technical questions include by-products, animal by-products, realistic conformity assessment requirements, respect of normal REACH requirements, chemical reactions between CMCs, amongst others, as well as wording clarifications. Progress is being made on some of these.

The coming months and the Austria presidency probably represent a critical window for finalisation of this flagship Regulation, before the approach of European Parliament elections. We know that DG GROW services have consistently engaged to support trilogue and appreciate that the resources of the Unit have now been reinforced to facilitate this.

For these reasons, we hope that, together, Council, Parliament and the European Commissioners concerned can take the political initiative necessary to finalise the trilogue on the Fertilising Products Regulation as a flagship for the Circular Economy.

We would be happy, to discuss any aspects of this Regulation further with you and your colleagues or services.

List of signatory organisations (as at 16th November 2018) follows
Aarhus Vand (water solutions, Denmark)
Contact: Per Overgaard Pedersen, Chief Engineer, Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery pop@aarhusvand.dk

AEBIG (Asociación Española de Biogás)
Contact: Luis Puchades l.puchades@aebig.org

Agricultural Research Council Czech Republic
(promoting environmentally friendly agriculture)
Contact: Jiri Holas, jiri.holas@arcnet.cz

Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute for Northern Ireland (UK)
Contact: Gary Lyons, Senior Scientist gary.lyons@afbini.gov.uk

AquaMinerals (water sector resource recycling company, The Netherlands)
Contact: Olaf van der Kolk, Director vanderkolk@aquaminerals.com

Aquawaters Associates (environmental consultancy)
Contact: Barbara Anderson, President serenewaters.barbara@gmail.com

Asociația Română a Compostului (Romanian Compost Association)
Contact: Valentin Feodorov, President, office@asociatiaecompostului.ro

ATB (Leibniz-Institut für Agrartechnik und Bioökonomie, Germany)
Contact: Dr. Jürgen Kern jkern@atb-potsdam.de

ATEE Club Biogaz (French Biogas Association)
Contact: Arnaud DIARA, Project manager a.diara@atee.fr

Austrian Compost & Biogas Association
Contact: Franz Kirchmeyr kirchmeyr@european-biogas.eu

Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG)
Contact: Laura Hoijer, Content Director laura.hoijer@bsag.fi

BHU Umwelntechnik (Environmental Technology, Water and Sludge)
Contact: Stefan Köppl (CEO) and Dr. Alessandro Meda (CTO)
alessandro.med@bhu-et.de

Bioenergy Europe
Contact: Jean-Marc Jossart, Secretary General, Jossart@bioenergyeurope.org

Bioenergy2020+ (Austria)
Contact: Dr Bernhard Drosg bernhard.drosg@bioenergy2020.eu

BioEngine (green process engineering and biorefineries)
Contact: Céline Vaneekhaupte, Director celine.vaneekhaupte@gch.ulaval.ca
Biogas-E
Contact: Mieke Decorte mieke.decorte@biogas-e.be

BIOMASA PENINSULAR Services
(technology, bio-products from biowaste)
Contact: José M. Gómez Palacios, Director jmgomez@bpeninsular.com

Biorefine Cluster
Contact: Erik Meers Erik.Meers@UGent.be

BIOVEGEN (Spanish Technology Platform for Plant Biotechnology)
Contact: Gonzaga Ruiz de Gauna. Manager gruizgauna@invegen.org

BMC Moerdijk (thermal conversion of poultry manure, Netherlands)
Contact: Kees de Regt, Managing Director kees.deregt@bmcmoerdijk.nl

BTS Biogas (Biogas & Biomethane Plants – Italy, UK, France, Japan)
Contact: Michael Niederbacher, CEO&Chairman m.niederbacher@bts-biogas.com

Bulgarian Water Association (BWA)
Contact: Ivan Ivanov, President ivijean@abv.bg

CARBOLIVA (Energy and Biochar, Spain)
Contact: Juan Turrion, Technical Director juanturrion@carboliva.es

CETAQUA (Water Technology Center)
Contact: Nicolás de Arespacochaga Santiago Wastewater and Resource Recovery Area Manager De narespacochaga@cetaqua.com

Christoph Fischer GmbH · EM-Chiemgau
Contact: Christoph Fischer, Managing Director christoph.fischer@em-chiemgau.de

CIMO (Compagnie industrielle de Monthey, Switzerland)
Contact: Blandine Maisonnier, Responsible for the Sepholix project

CIRCULAR CARBON (Biochar Consulting Company, Germany)
Contact: Felix Ertl, CEO felix.ertl@circular-carbon.com

CNP CYCLES (nutrient recovery, Germany)
Contact: Rudolf Bogner, CEO info@cnp-cycles.de
**Colsen** (technology in water, energy and environment)
Contact: Boris Colsen b.colsen@colsen.nl

**CRPA** (Research Centre on Animal Production, Italy)
Contact: Sergio Piccinini, Head of Environment Department, s.piccinini@crpa.it

**Culterra** (organic fertilisers, The Netherlands)
Contact: Leon Fock, Director General l.fock@culterra.nl

**Czech Biogas Association**
Contact: Jan Matějka, Vice-Chairman jan.matejka@czba.cz

**Czech Pyrolysis and Gasification Association**
Contact: Michael Pohořelý pohorely@icpf.cas.cz

**DAM Depuración de Aguas del Mediterráneo** (wastewater services company Spain)
Contact: Santiago Amores Blasco, Manager Director c/o laura.pastor@dam-aguas.es

**DANVA** (Danish water and wastewater association)
Contact: Helle Kayerøed hkr@danva.dk

**DiaPure AB** (nutrient recycling company, Sweden)
Contact: Lisa Heiberg, lisa@diapure.eu

**DOFCO International** (organic fertilisers, The Netherlands)
Contact: M. Vermeulen, J. Uenk (Directors) j.uenk@dofco.nl

**Dutch Water Authorities (UvW)**
Contact: Albert Vermuë, General Director avermue@uvw.nl

**EasyMining Sweden**
(Ash2Phos & CleanMAP processes for P-Recycling)
Contact: Jan Svärd, CEO jan.svard@easymining.se

**e-BioCenter** University of Milan
Contact: Andrea Schievano andrea.schievano@unimi.it

**Ecologic Biogas** (Spain)
Contact: Ángel Porta Gaset angel@ecobiogas.es

**ECon Ewert Consult** (Germany)
Contact: Wolfgang Ewert w.ewert@ewert-consult.de

**EkoBalans** (nutrient recycling company, Sweden)
Contact: Gunnar Thelin, gunnar.thelin@ekobalans.se

**Ekopot** (ecological agriculture, tourism, environment protection, Turkey)
Emina Ahmetovic, Associate ekopot.tuzla@bih.net.ba

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Eliquo Water (water technology company)
Contact: Gauke Reitsma, CEO gauke.reitsma@eliquowater.com

Estonian Waterworks Association (EVEL)
Contact: Pille Aarma pille.aarma@evel.ee

EUBIA (European Biomass Industry Association)
Contact: Drilona Shtjefni, Deputy Secretary General drilona.shtjefni@eubia.org

European Biochar Foundation
Contact: Bruno Glaser brunoglas@landw.uni-halle.de

European Biogas Association (EBA)
Contact: Franz Kirchmeyr, President kirchmeyr@european-biogas.eu

European Environmental Foundation
Contact: Stefan Russel, Director for Science and Development stefan.russel@sggw.pl

European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA)
Contact: Martin Aim, Technical Director mail@dr-aim.eu

European Federation for Agricultural Recycling (EFAR)
Contact: Hubert Brunet, Chairman hubert.brunet@sede.fr

European Organic Fertilizers Manufacturers Association (EUROFEMA)
Contact: Leon Fock, Chairman info@eurofema.eu

Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Switzerland (R&D)
Contact: Nättorp Anders anders.naettorp@fhnw.ch

Fertikal (organic fertilisers, Belgium)
Contact: Viooltje Lebuf, Business Development Engineer Fertikal Viooltje.lebuf@fertikal.be

FIDER (Fundación para la Innovación y el desarrollo de las energías renovables, Spain)
Contact: Begoña Martín Rodríguez bmartin@fundacionfider.org

Finnish Biogas Association
Contact: Anna Virolainen-Hynnä, Executive Director anna.virolainen-hynn@biokaasuyhdistys.net

Fraunhofer IWKS
Contact: Carsten Gellermann carsten.gellermann@isc.fraunhofer.de

FVPK German Biochar Association (Fachverband Pflanzenkohle)
Contact: Susanne Veser, Chairperson Vorstand1@fvpk.de
German Biogas Association
Contact: David Wilken sebastian.stolpp@biogas.org

GMB BioEnergie
(sewage sludge treatment company in The Netherlands)
Contact: Marc Bennenbroek, project manager marcbennenbroek@gmb.eu

Hellenic Association of Municipal Water and Sewerage Companies
Contact: Markos Skiivianiotis, European Affairs markskliv@gmail.com

Hitachi Zosen Corporation (waste & technology company)
Contact: Kozo Ueda, Deputy general manager ueda_k@hitachizosen.co.jp

Hungarian Biogas Association
Contact: Kornel L. Kovacs at elnok@biogas.hu

Hungarian Water Utility Association (MAVIZ)
Contact: Edit Nagy, Secretary General nagy.edit@maviz.org

Institut für Biogas (Rostock, Germany)
Contact: Frank Scholwin scholwin@biogasundenergie.de

Irish BioEnergy Association
Contact: Sean Finan, CEO seanfinan@irbea.org

Isle Utilities (water technologies and services company)
Contact: Piers Clark Chairman, piers.clark@isleutilities.com

Italian Compost and Biogas Association
Contact: Massimo Centemero, General Director centemero@compost.it

Ithaka Institute for Carbon Strategies (Germany)
Contact: Hans-Peter Schmidt, Director schmidt@ithaka-institut.org

Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT)
Kompetenzzentrum für Materialfeuchte (CMM)
Contact: Rainer Schuhmann rainer.schuhmann@kit.edu

Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Berlin (KWB)
(water research center Berlin)
Contact: Ulf Miehe, uif.miehe@kompetenz-wasser.de
Joint letter for the proposed EU Regulation on Fertilising Products. Signatory organisations.

Kopf Syngas (gasification technology company, Germany)
Contact: Johannes Judex, Process Engineering and R&D director
j.judex@kopf-syngas.de

KWR (applied research in the water cycle, Netherlands)
Contact: Idsart Dijkstra, Manager Water Systems and Technology:
Idsart.Dijkstra@kwrwater.nl

LeAF (treatment and valorization of organic residues, The Netherlands)
Contact: Tiemen Nanninga, Director
tiemen.nanninga@wur.nl

MasterGas UG (Development of Biomass Conversion Technology)
Contact: Björn Kuntze, Managing Director, kuntze@mastergas.de

MSE Mobile Schlammentwässerungs (waste technology company, Germany)
Contact: Rudolf Turek, Technical Manager
r.turek@mse-mobile.de

Municipal Waste Europe (the European umbrella association representing public responsibility for waste)
Contact: Vanya Veras
vanya.veras@municipalwasteeurope.eu

N2-Applied (nutrient recovery company, Norway)
Contact: Henk Aarts, Business Development Director Europe
henk.aarts@n2applied.no

Naturefund e. V. (non-profit environmental organisation)
Contact: Katja Wiese, Director
katja.wiese@naturefund.de

NMI nutrient management institute, (The Netherlands)
Contact: Laura van Schöll, senior project manager
Laura.vanscholl@nmi-agro.nl

NORSØK Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture
Contact: Turid Strøm, director, turid.strom@norsok.no

OB Impianti (water & agricultural technology company, Italy)
Contact: Elena Bonadei elena.bonadei@obimpianti.com

Ostara (nutrient recycling company)
Contact: Dan Parmar, President & CEO
dparm@ostara.com

Outotec GmbH (sustainable use of Earth’s natural resources)
Andreas Orth, Vice President Product Management Energy & Environment
andreas.orth@outotec.com

Pflanzenkohle Jäger (energy and biochar, Germany)
Contact: Wilhelm Jäger
pflanzenkohle-jaeger@t-online.de
P-REX Environment (technology services, Germany)
Contact: Christian Kabbe ckabbe@p-rex.eu

Proman Consulting (Austria)
Contact: Ludwig Hermann l.hermann@proman.pro

Prophos Chemicals (Italy)
Contact: Vania Manfredi, CEO v.manfredi@prophoschemicals.com

PYREG (biochar company, Germany)
Contact: Helmut Gerber, Managing Director H.Gerber@pyreg.de

Rika Biofuel Developments (waste to biogas developers)
Contact: Gregory Krupnikovs info@rikabiofuels.com

RISE – Agrifood and Bioscience (Research Institutes of Sweden)
Contact: Erik Sindhøj, Coordinator for Circular Nutrient Systems, erik.sindhoj@ri.se

RITTMO Agroenvironment (France)
Contact: Laure Metzger Laure.METZGER@rittmo.com

School of Agronomy, University of Lisbon
Contact: Antonio Guerreiro de Brito, President of ISA agbrito@isaulisboa.pt

sePura (agricultural and fertiliser services, Germany)
Contact: Dieter Leimkötter, CEO dieter.leimkoetter@sePura.de

SOCAMEX Spain (water management)
Contact: Roberto Torío, Technical Director yballesterosa@socamex.com

Soepenberg Group (recycling specialist, fertilizer and struvite producer)
Contact: Norbert Scholten, Owner n.scholten@soepenberg.com

SOIL-CONCEPT
(energetic use and recycling of sewage sludge compost)
Contact: Alex Kolomijtschuk ako@soil-concept.lu

Sonnenerde (compost and biochar company Germany)
Contact: Gerald Dunst, g.dunst@sonnenerde.at

SPD Navarra de Biogás
Contact: Javier Martín bmartin@spdbiogas.com
Swedish Gas Association
Contact: Linus Klackenberg, Production co-ordinator
linus.klackenberg@energigas.se

TerraNova Energy (waste technology company, Germany)
Contact: Marc Buttmann, CEO marc.buttmann@terranova-energy.com

ValBiom (Walloon cluster of the Bioeconomy)
Contact: Bertrand Auquière, Manager b.auquiere@valbiom.be

Waila AB (climate mitigation solutions, Sweden)
Contact: Sebastian Meyer, CEO sebastian.meyer@waila.se

Waterstromen (nutrient recycling company industrial process water)
Contact: Richard Haarhuis, Project manager
R.Haarhuis@Waterstromen.nl

Wetsus (European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology, The Netherlands)
Contact: Cees Buisman, Scientific Director cees.buisman@wetsus.nl

Willem Schipper (recycling consultancy services, The Netherlands)
Contact: Willem Schipper wsconsulting@zeelandnet.nl