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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 as regards the digital labelling of EU fertilising products (first reading) - Adoption of the legislative act = Statements

Statement of the Italian Republic

The Proposal for a Regulation as regards the digital labelling of EU fertilising products is a tool that promotes the digitalisation of the entire agricultural sector and will enable all operators in the sector to convey and manage information in an agile and efficient manner. As things stand, the proposal would appear only to partially support the development of the technological process – widely promoted by the entire agricultural sector – by only allowing certain information to be transmitted within the digital section. The use of this instrument is also currently being discussed with regard to other technical means for agriculture such as plant protection products, which are also essential to ensure adequate agricultural production.

Therefore, given that extending the scope of digital labelling to all information other than safety requirements for human, animal and environmental health would allow for better management of labels and packaging with a view to greater sustainability, we hope that the proposal could be subject to rapid updates in order to support the digital transition and to provide farmers with the complete and comprehensive technical information that they are increasingly demanding.

Statement of the Slovak Republic

Slovakia takes the view that the possible digital labelling of fertilisers provides an opportunity to improve the communication of labelling information. Such a move would constitute technological progress as well as helping reduce costs for fertiliser producers and the entire supply chain. We therefore regret the fact that the final agreement reached by the co-legislators has not resulted in a more ambitious proposal that would have led to more significant cost reductions for economic operators, the rationalisation of labelling and less packaging waste, and ultimately to a better use of digital labelling by operators. This would have resulted in a greater impact for both the economy and the environment.

Statement of the European Commission

The Commission expresses concern with the wording of the last sentence of recital 12 (*“It is recalled that it is also essential that the end-user has the necessary information referred to in Regulation 2023/988 to be able to identify and contact the responsible person for products placed on the Union market.”*).

The Commission considers that Article 16 of Regulation 2023/988 [on general product safety], which lays down the obligation of establishment of a ‘responsible person’ for products placed on the Union market, does not apply to products subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/1009.