



PRESS RELEASE

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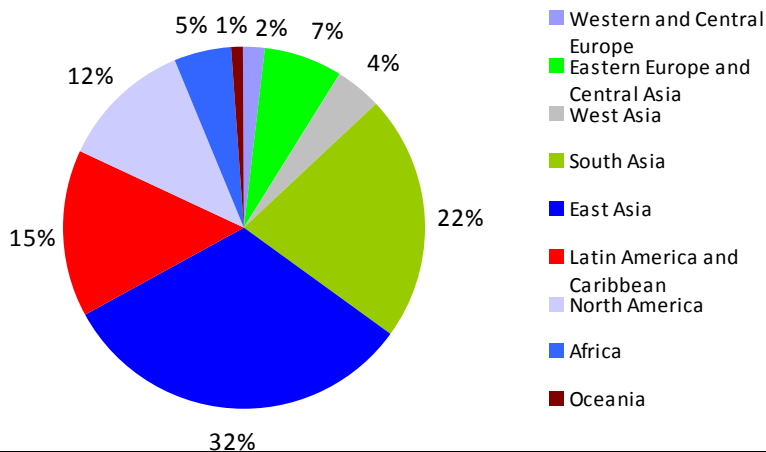
Fortis Bank Nederland/VM Group
Geopolitical Risk Quarterly/The fertiliser complex

VM Group in partnership with Fortis Bank Nederland today publishes the **Geopolitical Risk Quarterly**. The **Geopolitical Risk Quarterly** takes a fresh approach to commodity markets by analysing the supply and demand risks faced by a particular commodity or commodity-related issue. In this issue we focus on global fertiliser markets.

Fertiliser is potentially the key metacommodity of the 21st century, as its production and use involves some aspect of every part of the commodity complex, including crops, energy and mineral extraction. Although we face the prospect of ample fertiliser supply in the next few years, the longer-term outlook is for much higher fertiliser demand.

Fertiliser prices collapsed (along with all other commodities) in the wake of the financial crisis of late 2008, but it is notable that they are coming out of the recession at a significantly higher level than they were prior to the start of the commodity boom in 2005. We expect that over the mid-term very strong demand – driven by population growth, increased urbanisation, and shrinking available arable land – will push prices back towards previous record levels, and that this in turn will create conditions in which fertiliser producers remain favoured takeover targets.

Regional changes in fertiliser consumption 2008-2013



Source: VM Group from FAO

The **Geopolitical Risk Quarterly** is open-access, available directly from the VM Group at: www.virtualmetals.co.uk

If you have not received a copy of this report, or should you require further details or commentary, please contact: Clare Hayter, VM Group: +44 20 7569 5930: info@virtualmetals.co.uk