



## 1st Ministerial Conference for Agriculture

Brussels, 24 January 2024

### JOINT STATEMENT

of the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries of MED9  
Brussels, 24th January 2024

We, the undersigned Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries and the representatives of the nations of Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain, convened in Brussels on January 24, 2024, for our inaugural meeting. Deliberating on the tremendous challenges that our farmers, fishermen, and the whole agri-food sector are facing, amid the prevailing climate crisis, particularly affecting the Mediterranean region, we reaffirm the severity of the situation and acknowledge the escalating frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, and wildfires across our respective countries.

Recognizing the broader spectrum of impacts on farmers' income and their standard of living, we hereby declare our collective commitment to fortifying collaboration, endorsing relevant initiatives, and supporting dialogues on the climate crisis and other common concerns, such as the need for a simplification of the CAP. Our paramount objective is to strengthen the agri-food sector, through concerted efforts and coordinated actions aimed at supporting our farmers and fostering the resilience of the entire food value chain.

We pledge to prioritize the development of a sustainable agricultural and fisheries sector in the region, thus strengthening food sovereignty in the EU and ensuring that food supplies reach consumers at reasonable price. This Ministerial meeting demonstrates our determination to address the urgent needs of our farming and fishing communities in the face of the ongoing climate change impacts.

**Eleftherios Avgenakis**

*Greek Minister of Rural Development & Food*

**Francesco Lollobrigida**

*Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry*

**Marija Vučković**

*Croatian Minister of Agriculture*

**Anton Refalo**

*Maltese Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights*

**Maria Panayiotou**

*Cypriot Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment*

**Maria do Céu Antunes**

*Portuguese Minister of Agriculture and Food*

**Eva Knez**

*Slovenian Secretary of State for Agriculture, Forestry and Food*

**Fernando Miranda Sotillos**

*Spanish General Secretary for Agriculture Resources and Food Security*

**Philippe Duclaud**

*French General Director for Economic and Environmental performance of Enterprises*

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