

**MED9 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting, Portorož, Slovenia, October 6, 2025**

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

### ***Stepping up Climate-Related and Other Risk Management Efforts in Agriculture –***

#### **MED9 Joint Declaration on Building Agricultural Resilience in the Mediterranean region**

**We, the Agriculture Ministers of Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, reaffirm our strong commitment to stepping up our joint efforts to create a resilient, sustainable, and climate-adapted agricultural sector in the Mediterranean region, fully aligned with the objectives of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and in coherence with other EU policies. To this end WE:**

**RECOGNIZE** that the Mediterranean region, as one of the world's climate change and desertification hotspot, faces increasing agricultural vulnerability due to climate-related and other risks. In addition to market fluctuations and evolving socio-economic circumstances (demographic changes, changes in consumer demand, income disparities and shifts in rural livelihoods and other structural adjustments in rural economies), extreme weather events – recurrent, rapid and prolonged droughts, water scarcity, increasing number of heat waves which are becoming more intense and longer, wildfires, severe floods and hailstorms – as well as the spread of new plant and animal diseases and invasive species are already deeply affecting this region.

**EMPHASISE** that the agriculture's pivotal role in food security, food sovereignty, water resource management, biodiversity protection, and the vitality of rural areas is under serious threat from these accelerating risks.

**RECALL** the European Climate Risk Assessment Report (EUCRA, 2024), which warns that several climate risks have already reached critical levels and with the potential to cascade across systems and regions and to exacerbate existing risks and crises (i.e. water and biodiversity crisis). These risks are no longer future scenarios but present realities, severely affecting Mediterranean agriculture.

**UNDERLINE** that recurrent damages undermine farm incomes, long-term development prospects, and discourage younger generations from farming. They also strain insurance systems, which are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with rising claims and losses, placing disproportionate pressure on farmers in Mediterranean regions, and have significant implications on medium- and long-term stability of public finances due to *ad hoc* public interventions triggered by a series of large-scale catastrophic events.



**RECOGNIZE** strengthened EU mechanisms and tools are needed in order to cope with these realities. Immediate, coordinated, and forward-looking responses are urgently required across all levels of governance, integrating climate resilience into every policy field, based on a systemic approach linking adaptation, sustainable management of natural resources, innovation and long-term resilience of Mediterranean agriculture.

**REITERATE** our shared commitment, in line with the conclusions of the 2025 MED9 Environmental Ministerial Meeting, to strengthening coordination in anticipation of the European Commission's forthcoming "Climate Adaptation Plan". We stress the need to promote a resilience-by-design approach, embedding adaptation into all relevant EU policies, including the CAP.

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the European Commission's efforts to enhance agricultural risk management in the recently published proposal of the legal framework for National and Regional Partnership Plans, CAP and Performance Framework for the post-2027 period. We **RECOGNIZE** the inclusion of new elements such as crisis payments, support for transition towards resilient production systems, strategies for adapting to risks in agriculture and a cascading response to natural disasters.

**STRESS** the need to reinforce the post-2027 legislative framework for climate-related and other risk management. Greater coherence across EU policies is required to enhance preparedness and strengthen crisis response. The framework must also provide greater clarity on the links between adaptation and post-crisis measures, as well as financing arrangements, particularly regarding the flexibility amount (25% of the Union's contribution for National and Regional Partnership Plans) and the EU Facility. A robust, adequately funded and flexible EU crisis management and disaster response system should be established within the next Multiannual Financial Framework, recognising that CAP resources alone cannot meet the scale of these challenges.

**RECALL** the European Investment Bank's recent study "*Insurance and Risk Management Tools for Agriculture in the EU*", which highlights the complexity of agricultural risk management, the low uptake of tools by farmers, and the difficulties faced by both administrations and the private sector. We urge the Commission to take these findings into account in future legislation.

**UNDERScore** the need to move from *ad hoc* compensation tools towards a more strategic, proactive, and future-oriented approach. This requires a combination of long-term planning, flexible instruments, risk prevention measures, innovative finance, innovative reinsurance at the EU level, inclusive innovation, and robust rural and agricultural policy. Exceptional measures should complement—not replace—farmers' incentives to adopt effective risk management strategies. No farmer should be left behind.



**HIGHLIGHT** the fact that there are still significant differences in the levels of knowledge and experience in setting up and successfully implementing various risk management schemes across the EU. Thereby, we urge the Commission to consider setting up appropriate platform for sharing the knowledge and the best practices among the Member states.

**REAFFIRM** our shared vision of positioning the Mediterranean as a frontrunner in sustainable agricultural risk management, ensuring food and water security, including equitable water access to all communities, sustainable irrigation water supply, rural vitality, and competitiveness. The MED9 framework remains a key platform for aligning regional perspectives and promoting joint action at the EU level.

**BELIEVE** that the Mediterranean holds substantial potential for climate-resilient agricultural innovation, leadership and strategic cooperation in climate risk management.

