**

**Joint Press Statement – MED9 Meeting on Sustainable Risk Management in Agriculture**
Luxembourg, 23 June 2025

Ministers and senior representatives of the MED9 countries convened in Luxembourg to discuss **sustainable risk management in agriculture**. Held under the Slovenian Presidency of the MED9 group, the meeting served as an important platform for exchanging perspectives on shared challenges and priorities amid escalating climate-related and other risks, including water scarcity and drought events.

**The MED9 countries reaffirmed their strong commitment to enhancing resilience in the agricultural sector through coordinated EU action and strengthened strategic planning. They called for:**

 **Improved integration and coordination** across EU policies, including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), climate action, crisis response, and regional development.

* **Reaffirmation of the importance of maintaining a strong, common agricultural policy**, including safeguarding the two pillar structure of the CAP and its dedicated budget, while expressing caution regarding any potential steps towards renationalisation or integration into single national plans.
* **Preservation of second-pillar CAP funding**, particularly for farm-level investments aimed at strengthening climate resilience and climate adaptation.

 **A strong call for stability and predictability for farmers**, including the continuation of direct payments and, where relevant, production-linked support.

 **The need for robust crisis preparedness**, including the potential mobilisation of the crisis reserve and other relevant financial plans. Some members asked for a reflexion on EU-level insurance schemes.

* **Increased financial support and greater flexibility** for risk management tools, including the potential establishment of EU-level reinsurance schemes and a stronger role for the European Investment Bank (EIB).
* **Full utilisation of CAP strategic plans** to support investment in adaptation measures and risk prevention, including targeted investments in modern, efficient irrigation systems to mitigate the risk of water scarcity and secure stable agricultural production.

 The urgent need to prioritize **effective management of water resources** through the new EU water strategy.

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding that addressing agricultural risks requires **innovative, multi-level, and EU-coordinated solutions**, and that Mediterranean countries are ready to contribute actively to shaping future EU responses.

The **forthcoming MED9 ministerial meeting**, under the auspices of the Slovenian Presidency, will be convened in Portorož, Slovenia, in **October 2025**, with a view to continuing the collective push for greater agricultural resilience.

#MED9SI