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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Results of the meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the Visegrad Group (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Bulgaria and Romania (GV4+2) (Poznań, 25-26 September 2024) <i>- Information from Poland, on behalf of Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia</i>

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from Poland, on behalf of Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia on the above-mentioned subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 21-22 October 2024.

**Information from Poland on
the Results of the meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic,
Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Bulgaria and Romania (V4+2)
held in Poznań on 25-26 September 2024**

On 25-26 September 2024, a meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Bulgaria and Romania (V4+2) was held in Poznań as part of Poland's Presidency of the Visegrad Group. The meeting took place on the margins of the POLAGRA International Trade Fair (FOOD, FOODTECH and HORECA).

The meeting was dedicated to discussing the flood situation in the countries of the region and possible future joint action within the EU. The Ministers presented the losses and damage to agriculture caused by the floods. They agreed on the need for joint action within the EU to support infrastructural solutions, e.g. the construction of reservoirs, investments to prevent and counteract floods, e.g. an early warning system. Ministers stressed the need for rapid mobilisation of EU aid from the special reserve for flood-affected countries. They stressed the willingness of the Central and Eastern European countries to coordinate on flood-related issues in order to find the best solutions for farmers and to restore production potential.

The second topic of the meeting was the exchange of experiences from the first two years of implementation of the latest CAP reform and future challenges for the policy. For the Ministers, it was an opportunity for a preliminary assessment of the recommendations of the Strategic Dialogue on EU Agriculture. Ministers agreed on the need for a balance between the requirements and expectations placed on agriculture and the possibility of achieving the fundamental objectives of the CAP. In this context, the reasons for the recent farmers' protests were recalled. Ministers stressed that, regarding the future of the CAP, one of the important factors which has to be taken into account in the discussion, is the planned enlargement of the EU and the challenges it will bring to the agriculture of the current member states.

The ministers also discussed the use of biomass for energy purposes in the context of eliminating unnecessary administrative burdens. The ministers agreed that the justification for imposing increasingly higher requirements on agriculture should be subject to an in-depth discussion at the EU forum. Farmers' compliance with the requirements resulting from the CAP should be a proof of agricultural production being conducted in a sustainable manner. Additional requirements and administrative burdens imposed on farmers limit the competitiveness of EU agriculture.

During the discussions the Ministers reviewed 20 years of membership of Visegrad Group and 17 years of membership of Bulgaria and Romania in the European Union and its effects on agriculture and the agri-food sector. The Ministers agreed that the balance of the membership in the EU of the V4+2 countries when it comes to agriculture and rural areas is definitely positive. CAP instruments have allowed for the modernization of farms and the modernization of agri-food processing, which resulted in increased competitiveness and an increase in food exports from the Visegrad Group countries, Bulgaria and Romania to the EU and the world.

In their conclusions, the Ministers emphasized the will for further regional cooperation in the area of agriculture.
