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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	PeaceBread Conference (Germany, 30 September – 2 October 2024) - <i>Information from Germany</i>

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from Germany 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 on the 10th Annual ‘PeaceBread’ Conference**(Germany, 30 September – 2 October 2024)**

Together with the PeaceBread association, Germany hosted the 10th PeaceBread Conference on Peace and Agriculture in Berlin and Brandenburg on 1st and 2nd October 2024. The first PeaceBread Conference was held in the same places in 2014. Ever since, the annual conferences, which rotate between the association’s Member States, have sent a strong signal of European unity and underlined the intrinsic link between peace-keeping and sustainable agriculture.

The conference began on 1st October, where the political delegations from Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Ukraine and Germany met with young farmers and representatives from the PeaceBread initiative’s civil society organisations. Finland and Ukraine were also invited to the 2024 conference as guest countries.

The ministerial exchange that took place on 2nd October at the invitation of Federal Minister Cem Özdemir focused on the future of agriculture in Europe, the promotion of resilient and sustainable food and agricultural systems and EU enlargement.

This year’s event also marked the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain in Europe and the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the European Union’s eastward enlargement. Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine shows the topicality of the PeaceBread initiative’s main concern: only in times of peace will we be able to ensure global food security – for current and future generations – through sustainable agriculture. The initiative’s future annual conferences will integrate and focus more strongly on these younger generations, and on their topics and perspectives.

Since 2014, seed from the rye field at the Berlin Wall Memorial has, as a visible sign of the connection between food security and peace, been planted in the PeaceBread partner countries at significant sites in the history of divided Europe. Each year, a joint PeaceBread is baked from this rye. The bread was symbolically presented by Federal Minister Cem Özdemir to Hungary as the host of next year’s conference.