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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 27 - 28 October 2025 MED9 Joint Declaration on Building Agricultural Resilience in the Mediterranean region - <i>Information from Slovenia</i>

Slovenia hosted an informal meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Mediterranean MED9 countries (Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain) in Portorož from 5 to 7 October 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to deepen cooperation in the area of sustainable risk management in agriculture.

On 6 October 2025, the ministers and senior representatives of the MED9 countries, in the presence of Vice-President of the European Investment Bank Ms Gelsomina Vigliotti, Deputy Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development at the European Commission Mr Mihail Dumitru, and Head of the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Group at the European Environment Agency Dr Blaž Kurnik, discussed sustainable risk management in agriculture, particularly in the framework of the proposals for the new Common Agricultural Policy post-2027. The discussion focused on the effectiveness of existing risk management instruments and the challenges posed by climate change, market imbalances and geopolitical uncertainties.

As, a result, the ministers adopted a joint declaration (annexed), setting out the key orientations and commitments of the MED9 countries to strengthen resilience and foster sustainable agricultural development across the Mediterranean region. The declaration underscores the need for coordinated action, innovative solutions, and strategic planning to address risks arising from climate change. It underlines the importance of fostering closer cooperation at the EU level, as well as promoting climate-smart practices that enhance food security, ensure sustainable water management, support rural vitality, and strengthen the region's competitiveness.

Additional priorities focus on strengthening European risk management mechanisms, enhancing the coherence of EU policies, and establishing clearer, more flexible funding rules. Particular emphasis is placed on the development of innovative financial instruments and the exchange of best practices. A shared vision aims to position the Mediterranean as a frontrunner in sustainable agricultural risk management.



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.

