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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 13 July 2026: Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the effective management of agricultural crisis situations within the CAP framework and in the wider context <i>- Information from Hungary, on behalf of Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia</i>

JOINT DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP
AND BULGARIA, CROATIA AND ROMANIA

on the effective management of agricultural crisis situations within the CAP
framework and in the wider context

Balatonfüred, Hungary, 30 June 2026

We, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania at the high-level meeting held in Balatonfüred, Hungary on the 30th of June 2026 upon the invitation of Hungary currently holding the V4 Presidency, agreed on our common position on the effective management of agricultural crisis situations within the CAP framework and in the wider context.

We, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania

- (1) HIGHLIGHT that the experience of previous years and developments observed in the current year clearly prove that the adverse climatic events including droughts, water scarcity, frosts, floods, hailstorms and other extreme weather events, as well as animal and plant diseases, geopolitical and market disturbances are causing more and more losses to producers, food supply chain actors, financing and insurance companies and to the national and EU budgets.
- (2) POINT OUT that the consequences of the damage are widespread and result in the decrease of farmer's income, postponement or abandonment of investments, weakening of rural economies, damage of food supply chains, loss of export markets, or increase of budget expenditure.
- (3) EMPHASISE the need to strengthen the risk management system, underlying the importance of prevention and the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to risk management, including prevention, financing, insurance, reinsurance and risk-sharing mechanisms.
- (4) STRESS that an effective response to growing climatic, geopolitical and market risks in agriculture will require a stronger, more flexible and adequately financed CAP, supported by a sufficiently ambitious budgetary framework within the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework.

- (5) **ACKNOWLEDGE** the importance of the already existing risk management tools of the current CAP legislation, which contributed significantly to helping farmers cope with the consequences of different crises. At the same time, while recognizing the relatively low uptake of the available advanced tools within the CAP legislative framework, **TAKE NOTE** the changes proposed by the European Commission for the post-2027 period.
- (6) **CONSIDER** that for ensuring the effective framework for the agricultural risk management, further actions will be needed both within the CAP framework and also in the wider context, recognising that public authorities are often the ultimate bearers of systemic agricultural risks. In this context, the growing scale, frequency and correlation of agricultural risks may require new institutional approaches alongside traditional market-based insurance mechanisms, allowing Member States to address systemic risks through solutions adapted to their specific circumstances.

Therefore, in the post 2027 CAP framework, we

- (7) **RECOGNIZE** that the historically low uptake of risk management measures within the CAP framework was often the consequence of rigid rules of risk management tools. In that context, **CALL UPON** the European Commission to create the conditions for a more flexible framework for the CAP instruments in their design, while allowing Member States sufficient scope to tailor their implementation to national specificities, different agricultural structures and risk profiles.
- (8) **POINT OUT** the necessity to enable Member States with the possibility on a voluntary basis to make provisions to channel certain percentages of farmers' area and animal-based income support to cover their participation in risk management instruments. The current rules of this instrument should be adjusted to allow for a differentiated contribution rate among farmers in the next programming period.
- (9) **EMPHASIZE** that, in the context of applying the threshold for the calculation of average annual losses is essential to ensure a fair, effective and proportionate implementation of the relevant provisions. In this regard **UNDERLINE** the importance of a flexible approach, particularly by preventing requirements that limit coverage exclusively to whole-farm or sectoral levels and **CALL** for a simplified and fair approach whereby the assessment of losses is carried out at the level of the insured crop or, in the case of the livestock sector, at the level of the insured animals belonging to a specific breed or category.

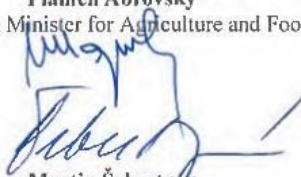
- (10) UNDERLINE the need of strengthening insurances in the animal husbandry sector and CALL FOR lowering the 20% threshold for average annual loss of production as well as for broadening the scope of causes for payment, which should not be limited to certain animal diseases or adverse weather conditions.
- (11) RECOGNISE that mitigating losses in an effective way sometimes requires an amount of public contribution that cannot be matched by farmers, therefore maximum support rates for mutual funds and insurance premiums should be exceptionally increased from 70% to 90%.
- (12) HIGHLIGHT that mobilizing existing instruments is often a lengthy procedure where relief comes too late, consequently CALL FOR provisions which allow paying out advances of exceptional support measures right after the need arises and before all eligibility conditions are checked - with due procedures to later reclaim payments where necessary. Such flexibility should also be supported by corresponding adjustments in the implementing rules, so that procedural constraints do not prevent the practical use of advance payments by Member States.
- (13) EMPHASIZE the importance of the Common Agricultural Policy's investment instruments, which make agricultural activity more resilient and predictable in the face of changing market conditions, the increasingly severe effects of climate change, and extreme weather events.
- (14) REALISE the necessity to quickly deploy crises payments to farmers thus allowing Member States to launch such schemes in situations of urgency after notifying the European Commission, while the amendment of the Plans could take place afterwards.
- (15) CONVINCED that the scope of the Unity Safety Net must also cover losses caused by natural disasters, adverse climatic or catastrophic events and CALL FOR the reduction of the loss threshold from 30% to 20%, as the current threshold is not suitable for certain types of risks.

In relation to the wider administrative and legislative framework, we

- (16) ENCOURAGE the European Commission to explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation with the international financial institutions, for example the European Investment Bank or the World Bank Group with the aim of setting up joint financial, insurance and risk-sharing instruments.

- (17) BELIEVE that a European reinsurance and risk-sharing scheme for the agriculture sector would effectively guarantee and share risk, mitigate the financial impact of climate-induced disasters, complement the national agricultural insurance schemes and benefit the whole EU by maintaining food security, stabilizing food supply chains and securing the long-term prosperity of the farming sector.
- (18) INVITE the European Commission to increase efforts in developing and upgrading existing modeling tools for an effective risk and losses estimations under different climate scenarios.
- (19) CALL UPON the Commission and the Presidency to take this declaration into consideration in future negotiations.

Plamen Abrovsky
Bulgarian Minister for Agriculture and Food



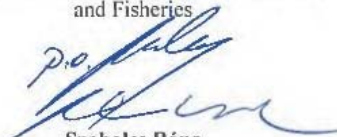
Martin Šebestýn
Czech Minister for Agriculture



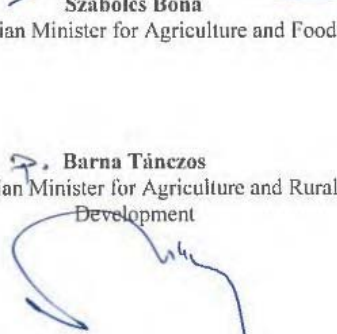
Stefan Krajewski
Polish Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development



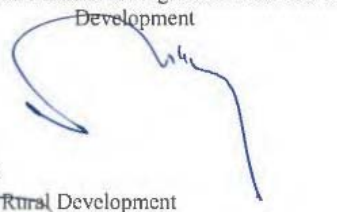
David Vlačić
Croatian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



Szabolcs Bóna
Hungarian Minister for Agriculture and Food



Barna Tanczos
Romanian Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development



Richard Takáč
Slovak Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

