



**JOINT MEMORANDUM
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF AGRICULTURAL CHAMBERS
AND ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP
AND BULGARIA, CROATIA, ESTONIA, LITHUANIA AND ROMANIA**

In response to the critical situation for farmers in Europe and the confluence of several hitherto unprecedented and unexpected adverse circumstances, such as the energy crisis, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, market destabilisation and the associated extreme annual rate of agricultural inflation. We, the representatives of the agricultural chambers and organizations of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania and Romania agree on this common position.

Reacting to an ever-worsening situation in agri-food sector and unsustainable discrepancy between farm gate prices and rising cost of production fundamentally threatening the future of farmers throughout the European Union.

We continue to consider it very important to support Ukrainian agriculture suffering under Russian aggression, but we are concerned that the free access of Ukrainian agricultural products to the European Union market has caused logistical difficulties and a lack of storage capacity in some of the eastern EU member states. We need measures to help mitigate the fall in market prices and incomes for EU farmers.

Pointing to a state further compounded by the highly ambitious targets of the European Green Deal, most recently, for example, the high reduction targets for pesticide use or the planned restriction of livestock due to allegedly harmful emissions or unjustified attack on fur farming.

With regard to highly ambitious and often unrealistic targets set without regard to agricultural practice and, moreover coming at the least opportune time for both farmers and, above all, consumers.

Bearing in mind farmers' natural responsibility and commitment to environmental protection.

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While at the same time raising concerns that reduced European production will be compensated by imports of food from abroad, with no real guarantee of the origin, food safety and environmental footprint of the food that we, and above all our children, will consume.

Highlighting that the main task of farmers being food production and contribution to food sovereignty in Europe, to provide enough quality food for consumers at affordable prices, while maintaining economic self-sufficiency and an adequate standard of living for farmers. Today, however, this objective seems almost impossible to achieve.

In view of the critical situation and in solidarity with our protesting colleagues in other EU countries, we, the representatives of the agricultural chambers and organizations of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania and Romania therefore call for a strike alert of farmers in our countries and agreed to approve and sign the

PRAGUE MEMORANDUM

(JOINT MEMORANDUM OF AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS' REPRESENTATIVES at the occasion of the informal AgriFish Council Meeting in Prague 15-16th September 2022)

After a thorough analysis of the access taken by selected Member States, we have decided it is absolutely necessary to take a proactive approach and call for common actions to prevent further existential problems for our farmers.

Therefore, we bring to your attention the following measures with a major impact on the agricultural activity of the states:

Short term measures:

- 1) Suspend emission allowances at least for the short term;
- 2) Cap energy prices and compensate farmers for high fertiliser prices and other vital agricultural inputs;
- 3) We need to help Ukrainian agricultural products reach the export markets of third countries, where these products are very much needed, but at the same time we need to implement measures to help alleviate logistical problems, market prices and incomes for local EU farmers in the relevant Member States. As it is crucial to protect domestic producers from the danger of being victims of circumstances caused by the liberalization of imports from Ukraine, circumstances that will lead to certain bankruptcies of native farmers;
- 4) Extending Temporary Crisis Framework to enable Member States to use the flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to support the economy in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine;

Long term measures:

- 1) Promoting energy self-sufficiency of farmers, especially promotion of RES;
- 2) Considering the increase in the bureaucratic burden on farmers, the existing climate challenges, potential impact of the implementation of the European Green Deal, the impact of the global crisis and the need to strengthen food security, we call for an increase in funding under the CAP
- 3) Allocating European funds/resources for breeding research, as well as supporting a position based on a purely scientific basis regarding the development of new resistant varieties, including NGT;
- 4) Rejection of any obligation established by the SUR draft to reduce the amounts of pesticides used by member states that have a consumption of PPPs below the European average;
- 5) Increase in the *de minimis* aid limit for primary agricultural production.

We sincerely hope that you, the esteemed Ministers of agriculture in our respective countries, will take into consideration the adverse circumstances faced by European farmers and the sacrifices they make to maintain European food security and, therefore you will support us in this initiative. Please consider the fact that your positions in relation to the issues mentioned above can make the mission of the farmers we represent easier or, on the contrary, much more complicated.

This Memorandum was distributed to each signatory, with an additional single copy to Copacogeca, the European Council and the European Commission.

In Prague, In Prague, 14 September 2022

President of the Agrarian Chamber of the
Czech Republic

Jan DOLEŽAL



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Member of the National Council of the
Agricultural Chambers of Poland

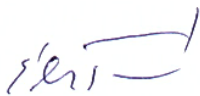
Robert NOWAK



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Vice President of the Hungarian Chamber of
Agriculture

Tamás ÉDER



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President of Slovak Agriculture and Food
Chamber

Emil MACHO



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Chairman of the Estonian Chamber of
Agriculture and Commerce

Roomet SÕRMUS



President - UNCSV

Mircea-Paul BĂLUȚĂ



Executive Director – APPR
Alina CREȚU



Chairman – ZS ČR
Martin PÝCHA



Chairman – NGPA

Kostadin Kostadinov



President of Croatian Chamber of Agriculture
Mladen JAKOPOVIĆ



President - PROAGRO
Ionel ARION



President - LAPAR
Nicolae VASILE



The President of the Chamber of Agriculture
of the Republic of Lithuania
Arūnas SVITOJUS

