

9th meeting of the CIHEAM Member Countries' Ministers of Agriculture

Valetta (Malta) –27th September, 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

Press release

The 13 CIHEAM member countries' ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, met in Valetta on the 27th of September 2012 at the invitation of the Hon. George Pullicino MP, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Malta, to discuss about **"Food Security and Pricing in the Mediterranean Countries"**. The European Commissioners for Agriculture and Rural Development, Health and Consumer Policy and the Chair of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee also contributed to these deliberations.



The Ministers and the Heads of Delegation:

- Aware that the Mediterranean region is witnessing a period of political, social, economic and environmental transition ;
- Fully conscious that the requirements of food security in the Mediterranean region must be seen in a context of multiple challenges (geographical constraints including water and land scarcity, demographic growth and urbanisation, climatic changes and environmental threats);
- Aware of the trend for the prices of basic commodities to increase and that the dependence of the majority of the Mediterranean countries on the international markets could intensify in the future, and that trade and exchanges through partnership will contribute to guarantee regular supplies;
- Called for more multilateral cooperation and regional solidarity among Mediterranean countries to face these challenges;

The Ministers drew particular attention to several measures able to consider the food security and food price volatility issues. They consisted in

- Implementing national agricultural and rural development policies as well as ecologically and socially responsible food strategies, in order to reinforce food security for their citizens, while supporting agricultural producers ;
- Encouraging a more inclusive growth on their territories ;
- Pursuing adaptation efforts for climate change in agriculture ;
- Developing innovative public-private financing and risk-management tools in agriculture ;
- Recognizing in these Food security policies the essential role of small-scale farmers, Women and young farmers ;
- Sharing the concerns, information and the national experiences concerning food security in order to progressively elaborate concrete and sustainable regional projects;
- Developing agricultural and logistical complementary opportunities among the Mediterranean countries on the level of commercial exchanges, to foster growth in investments in infrastructure and transport
- Recalling that efforts against inefficiency and wastage contribute towards re-enforcing food security ;
- Contributing to the development of a market information system of the Mediterranean countries, linked to AMIS, in close collaboration with the G20 monitoring panel, as a way to share sound information in order to help prevent price volatility in agricultural markets;

Ministers recommended that European Union may pursue, within the setting of its neighbourhood policies, cooperation in the Mediterranean area while attributing an important place to agricultural and rural development contained, for example, in the new ENPARD programme. They also recommended that European Union could strengthen the CIHEAM mission in the Mediterranean, through the use of delegated cooperation tools foreseen for international organisations.

Ministers also wished to emphasize the importance and continued role of CIHEAM. They reiterated their support to this intergovernmental organization in consolidating and strengthening the experience of half a century of existence. They recommended that CIHEAM should help the Mediterranean countries, through its education and cooperation activities and programmes, in the task of developing food security strategies and promoting institutional capacity for elaborating integrated and joint scientific research/development programs.

At the end of their meetings, the Ministers and the Heads of Delegation acknowledged that the topics of food security and the struggle against price-volatility deserve attention at all times. They demand coordinated answers at a political, commercial and logistical level which a Euro-Mediterranean multilateral context can facilitate. They agreed to bring the present recommendations to the attention of the Foreign Ministers of their respective countries so that they can take them into account in international negotiations and in political initiatives in which they are involved.

*You can find the full text of recommendations
on www.ciheam.org*



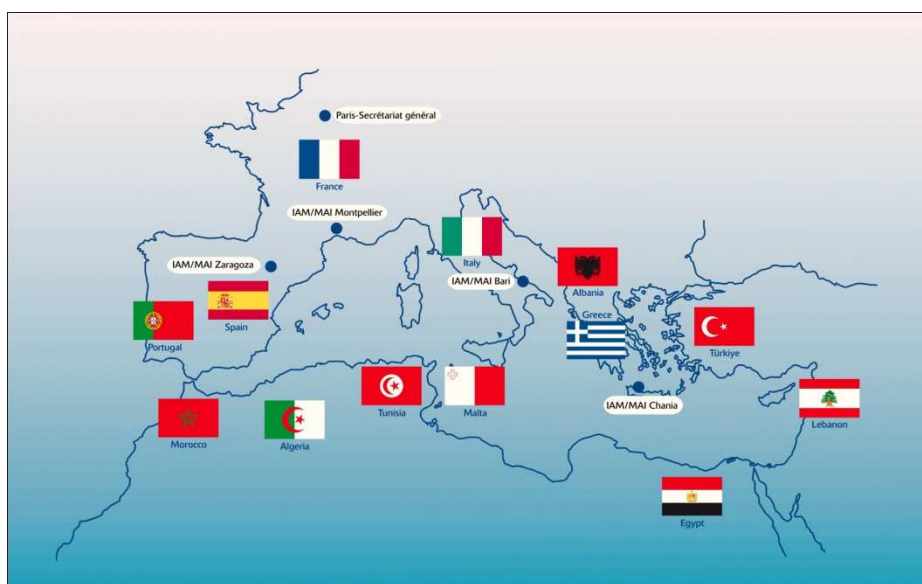
CIHEAM

Founded in 1962 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the OECD, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising thirteen member countries from the Mediterranean Basin (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia et Türkiye).

CIHEAM is constituted of a General Secretariat (Paris) and four Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza).

In pursuing its three main complementary missions (post-graduate specialised education, cooperative research and facilitation of the regional debate), CIHEAM is a reference in its fields of activity: Mediterranean agriculture, food, fisheries and rural development.

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