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Press release

16 September 2022: Informal Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture

Informal meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and the Special Committee on Agriculture, with the participation of the Commissioner for Agriculture, the General Secretariat of the Council, the Chairman of the AGRI Committee of the European Parliament and other organisations. In addition to the Ministers of EU Member States, the Ministers of Agriculture of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova accepted a special invitation. The theme will be Food Security - The role of EU agriculture and food in sustainable global food production.

Date

16 September 2022

Venue

Prague Congress Centre, 5. května 1640/65, Prague 4

Preliminary program

8:15 – Doorsteps and handshakes – arrivals and welcoming of the ministers

10:45 – Family photo

13:00 – Official press conference



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Media Accreditation

To participate in the program, it is necessary to apply for accreditation through the official accreditation system of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU. Please proceed to the system by clicking on the following link: <https://accreditation.eu2022.cz/administration/events> and creating a journalistic account.

After creating a journalistic account in the official accreditation system, you can then select the event for which you want to obtain accreditation in the "All Actions" tab – in this case, the „Informal Meeting of Agriculture Ministers and Meeting of Special Committee on Agriculture“. After completing the accreditation form, we will inform you by email about the status of your request.

*Please note that the accreditation for this event will be closed **8 days before the event starts (6 September 2022 23:59)**. Later registrations will not be allowed for security reasons.*

Media Contacts

Tereza Masopustová

Department for the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU

Communication Unit of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU

e-mail: media@eu2022.cz

phone: + 420 720 033 781



Program

The Informal Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and the Special Committee on Agriculture will be held in Prague from 14 to 16 September 2022. The event will be attended by the Commissioner for Agriculture, the General Secretariat of the Council, the Chairman of the AGRI Committee of the European Parliament and other organisations. In addition to the ministers of the EU Member States, the Ministers of Agriculture of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova also accepted a special invitation. The topic of the meeting will be Ensuring Food Security - The role of EU agriculture and food in sustainable global food production.

The European Union and its Member States are a strong part of the international community and major players in many areas of international policy, not least food security. Even though the international community has set itself the goal of eradicating hunger in the world and is making great efforts to achieve this goal, millions of people are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition today, and their numbers are even increasing. Food shortages in the world have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and, this year, by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The focus of the Ministers' discussions will be on current food security issues and future trends and solutions to help reduce the number of hungry people in the world.

The situation on agricultural markets

In addition to the shortage of cereals and oilseeds due to export capacity constraints and the seizure or destruction of grain stores in Ukraine, Russian aggression is also disrupting the flow of agricultural inputs, particularly mineral fertilisers and fuels, whose availability has deteriorated significantly, and prices have risen dramatically.

In addition, advancing climate change, currently in the form of drought in a number of regions, is causing further uncertainty about the availability of agricultural commodities and food. Millions more people in many regions of the world are therefore at risk.



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The consequences of food shortages are not only direct, but also indirect, in particular migration from the affected regions. This situation must be addressed not only by the EU, but by the international community as a whole through humanitarian aid, peace-building and strengthening the protection of the health of the world's population.

Sustainability of European and global food production

Recognising the importance of food security, the EU has excluded agricultural commodities and food from the sanctions it adopted in response to the unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine. The EU's share of world food production is significant and the EU must be part of the international effort to ensure food security. The EU and its Member States already meet high standards for the protection of human, animal and plant health, and agricultural requirements include a number of conditions that protect nature. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy also includes a number of measures to tackle the impacts of climate change and protect biodiversity, and EU Member States are due to start the new CAP as early as 1 January 2023. However, the EU and its Member States face the challenge of building even more sustainable food chains that are more responsive to climate change and protect the environment.

Therefore, the program of the informal meeting of Ministers of Agriculture also includes a presentation by Professor Miroslav Trnka, a scientist at the Institute of Global Change Research of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, who has long been involved in modelling the impacts of climate change on field crops in current and future conditions.

New trends, genomic techniques

In its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity 2030 strategies, the European Commission has set targets to reduce the use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers and to expand the area of land not used for agricultural production. At the same time, climate change may be causing a decline in agricultural production in the EU and globally. New technologies and practices can help counter this pressure. Roman Hobza, Ph.D. from the Institute of Biophysics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic will speak about new



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genomic techniques as a potential innovative tool for the EU agricultural and food sector at the beginning of the ministerial discussion.



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For media facilities and coverage inquiries, please contact:

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