

Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis
Minister for Agricultural Development and Food
2 Acharnon, Athens, 101 76
Greece

Brussels, 4 June 2024

Dear Minister,

Following the departure of Minister Marija Vučković who recently became Minister of Environment in Croatia, I am reaching out to you as we seek two Co-Chairpersons for the EPP Agriculture Ministers' Meetings, being a common practice in other EPP ministerial formations.

Given your active participation in and commitment to these meetings, I am convinced that you are the right person to assume the role of Co-Chair, together with Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Sari Essayah from Finland. I truly wish you can accept the post.

Since 2007, the EPP has organised EPP Ministerial Meetings as a means to prepare for the meetings of the Council of the EU. As you are aware, these meetings bring together EPP ministers attending the Council who are often joined by EPP Commissioners and MEPs of the respective fields. The aim of the Ministerial Meetings is to discuss and harmonise the positions of EPP ministers before the full meeting of the Council. More than that, they have played an important role in drafting declarations and resolutions that have later been approved by the EPP Congress and promoted in the Council. In addition, they provide an informal and confidential setting for the participants to share ideas and exchange their views within the EPP family.

In view of the challenging times ahead in the agriculture sector, the EPP has to take the lead to address the needs of our farmers and in terms of crisis prevention as well as to maintain coherent strategy on the latest developments and most relevant issues concerning our agricultural markets, in particular in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine or impact of climate change on agriculture. Therefore, it is utmost important for us to continue holding our meetings on a regular basis to exchange ideas.

If you accept our offer, as I hope, the EPP senior adviser Ms Galina Fomenchenko as well as officer Ms Pavlina Heymans will reach out to your team and help with any technicalities.

Best regards,



Thanasis Bakolas
Secretary General of EPP