

**Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Research of the  
BIOEAST Initiative's Member States**

We, the Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Research representing the countries of the BIOEAST initiative—Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia—reaffirm our commitment to fostering collaboration and addressing key challenges in the realm of knowledge-based agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry in the bioeconomy.

Acknowledging the significance of the joint declaration signed by 11 countries and 22 ministers during the Slovak Visegrad4 Presidency in May 2019, outlining the future trajectory of the BIOEAST Initiative within the framework of Horizon Europe;

Recognizing the ongoing debates surrounding sustainability and competitiveness, particularly regarding indispensable, but vulnerable natural resources such as soil, freshwater, and ecosystem services, as well as the critical importance of the European food system security and the potential of the bioeconomy in driving socio-economic and sustainable development in Europe;

Having regard to the future European Research and Innovation Framework Programme and synergies with other European Funds, including the Pre-Accession Funds, recognizing the significant role could play in cohesion of EU Member States and facilitating the accession process of Western-Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries to the European Union;

Considering discussions on European Strategic Autonomy, the re-evaluation of Europe's role in global supply chains, future policies concerning European food system security and sustainability, the context of natural resource management, climate targets, biotechnology and biomanufacturing initiative, and the growing digitalization of sectors;

Emphasizing the necessity of collective national efforts supported by European cooperation, and recognizing the imperative for a paradigm shift from import dependence to self-sustainability. Local biomass production and processing, alongside the precious soil, freshwater, and ecosystem resources in Central and Eastern Europe, are vital for securing a sustainable European food system and ensuring Europe's strategic autonomy;

Stressing that achieving these aforementioned objectives necessitates substantial investment in research and innovation, knowledge adaptation and dissemination, and the establishment of a specific and an effective research funding framework, alongside active societal engagement;

Recognizing the growing interest and appreciation for the role of the BIOEAST Initiative in identifying common strategic research and innovation priorities, while also leveraging the accomplishments of the initiative;

We commit to strengthen our cooperation in research, innovation and development by involving other countries, such as the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries, to facilitate their integration to the European Research Area in agriculture and other bioeconomy sectors;

We pledge to establish a joint research and innovation driven partnership aimed at addressing the interconnections between sustainable natural resources, the food system, and the deployment of the bioeconomy in Central and Eastern Europe. We foresee an in-depth discussion with all Member States and European Commission on the structure of the partnership, its scope, role of participants and financial aspects, thus this declaration does not imply an immediate financial commitment for the signatories.

We appreciate the Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence actions under the European Research and Innovation Framework Programme. However, we emphasize that there is a need to take further action in order to strengthen valorisation, knowledge exchange, and bridge the gap between research and implementation within Europe;

We invite the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Parliament to take this declaration into consideration during the strategic planning process of the new multiannual financial framework.

## HUNGARY

Date: 17 June 2024

Date: 28 June 2024

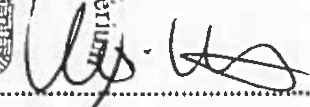
Dr. István Nagy

Minister of Agriculture

  
Agrárminisztérium  
Miniszter  
\*

Dr. Balázs Hankó

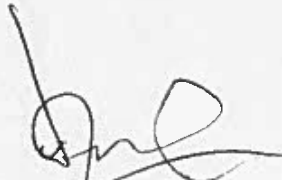
Minister of State for Innovation,  
Higher Education and Vocational Training

  
Kulturális, Innovációs és Technológiai Minisztérium  
\* 21. \*

Further ministerial signatures are appended in the subsequent pages.

**BULGARIA**

Date:



Georgi Vahov, PhD

Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture and Food

Date:



Prof. Galin Tsokov

Bulgarian Minister of Education and Science

.....

.....

## CROATIA

Date:

Date:

Josip Dabro

Prof. Radovan Fuchs PhD

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Minister of Science, Education and Youth



## CZECH REPUBLIC

Date:

Date:

Marek Výborný

Mikuláš Bek

Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports

**Mgr. Marek Výborný**  
Digitální podpis:  
25.06.2024 11:17



Digitálně podepsal doc.  
PhDr. Mikuláš Bek Ph.D.  
Datum: 2024.07.02  
09:20:11 +02'00'



BIOEAST – Central and Eastern European Initiative for Knowledge-based  
Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture in the Bioeconomy

## ESTONIA

Date: 28.06.24

Date:

Minister of Regional Affairs

Minister of Education and Research

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Põder", written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

A horizontal dotted line extending across the width of the page, positioned below the signature area.

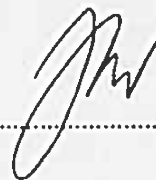
**ESTONIA**

Date:

Date:

Minister of Regional Affairs

*Kristina Kallas, PhD*  
Minister of Education and Research



.....

**LATVIA**

Date:

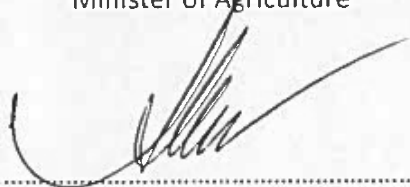
Date:

Armands Krauze

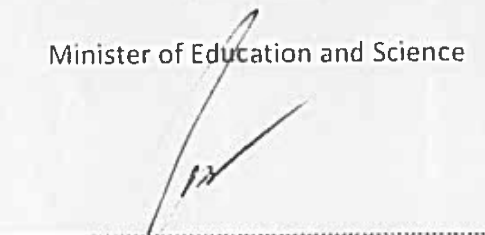
Anda Čakša

Minister of Agriculture

Minister of Education and Science



---



---



**POLAND**

Date: 27/06/2024

Date:

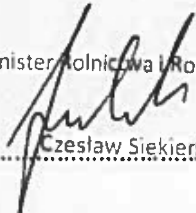
Czesław Siekierski

Maria Mrówczyńska

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Undersecretary of State at the Ministry  
of Science and Higher Education

Minister Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi

  
Czesław Siekierski

PODSEKRETARZ STANU

  
prof. dr hab. inż. Maria Mrówczyńska

02 LIP. 2024

ROMANIA

Date: 19.06.2024

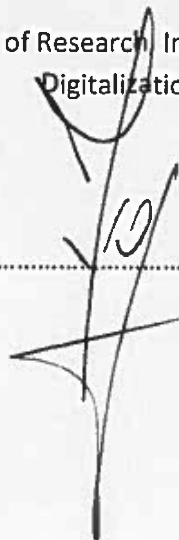
Date: 27.06.2024

Florin – Ionuț BARBU

Bogdan-Gruia IVAN

Minister of Agriculture and Rural  
Development

Minister of Research, Innovation and  
Digitalization



**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Date:

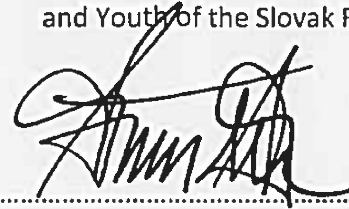
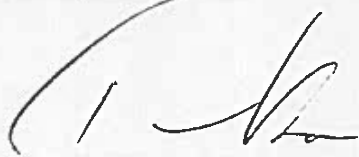
Date:

Richard Takáč

Tomáš Drucker

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development  
of the Slovak Republic

Minister of Education, Research, Development  
and Youth of the Slovak Republic



## SLOVENIA

Date: 26. 8. 2024

Date: 19. 8. 2024

Mateja Čalušič

Dr Igor Papič

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Minister for Higher Education, Science and  
Innovation

Čalušič

