

Joint declaration of the participants of the 'Peace and Agriculture' conference
on 1 October 2024 in Seddiner See / Berlin

PeaceBread across generations: ready for the next start
Promoting European dialogue for peace and agriculture

35 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, we are meeting again in Berlin. In the 'Peace and Agriculture' network, we are promoting European dialogue. We feel connected to agriculture and rural areas in many ways – as citizens of the European Union (EU) from the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Hungary.

We warmly welcome the Republic of Finland as a member and Ukraine as an official EU accession candidate to our network as permanent guest countries. Further accession candidates are to follow.

Since our network was founded, we have been growing rye from the former death strip of the Berlin Wall at historically memorable places in our national history. The annually baked, joint European PeaceBread is a powerful symbol that guides us and encourages us to shape a peaceful future.

We are convinced that peace and agriculture are mutually dependent:

AGRICULTURE needs peace – peace causes REMEMBRANCE – remembrance creates VALUES!

Supported in many ways by politics, science, business and the public, we discuss topics that affect us and the EU every year.

We have met at these conferences so far: 2014 in Berlin (Germany), 2015 in Poznan (Poland), 2016 in Szarvas (Hungary), 2017 in Varna (Bulgaria), 2018 in Sangaste (Estonia) and Koni (Latvia), 2019 in Vilnius (Lithuania), 2021 digital (Romania), 2022 in Novo mesto (Slovenia) and 2023 in Modra (Slovakia).

We are all united by the shared experience of freedom, self-determination and economic upturn in the EU after many years of division in Europe. We look with respect at the associated experience and messages that the Central and Southeastern European partner countries bring to our network.

We are all the more moved by Russia's criminal attack on Ukraine, which we deeply condemn. Beyond Europe, this war affects our joint efforts to achieve food security and our fight against climate change in the world. It is with great concern that we see the dramatic impact and damage of the war on infrastructure, the environment and human lives.

We feel responsibility for Ukraine, which currently does not have the opportunity to enjoy peace. Many representatives of the international network 'Peace and Agriculture' support Ukraine in a variety of professional and private ways. We oppose indifference, exhaustion and fatigue in supporting Ukraine in its struggle for sovereignty.

The members of the 'Peace and Agriculture' network expressly support, within the scope of their possibilities, the diverse efforts and co-operation of our partner countries to strengthen

Ukraine in all necessary areas in the fight against the aggressor, in the protection and reconstruction of infrastructure, in the humanitarian, medical, financial and military fields. We promote public awareness so that people actively join support initiatives and contribute to the victory and restoration of peace in Ukraine.

However, we also believe it is important to think beyond the war in Europe today. Ukraine's reconstruction and European integration must be considered today. In this context, we also see the continuation of our annual conferences in the partner countries, which we will enrich from 2025 on by a new format for young representatives from agriculture and rural areas.

We expect this dialogue across borders and generations to provide valuable impetus – also for the further development of EU agricultural policy. Topics relating to the sustainable development of agriculture and vital rural areas will take centre stage, considering their social, ecological and economic aspects. We expect the Sourdough Camps that we will be organizing from 2025 onwards to inspire young people from our partner countries. At the ceremony of the annual PeaceBread Conferences, we want to present the results and identify and honor a Sourdough Champ.

We are convinced that the conferences, together with our networking and youth work, remain necessary and meaningful. Hence our appeal not to let up in these activities – in our open dialogue with politicians and society.

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Lithuanian chamber of agriculture
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2024-10-01
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MIRCIU PETREU - ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS DEPORTED
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