



PRIMA FOUNDATION

Octavi QUINTANA TRIAS

Director of the Secretariat

*Mr. President of the CIHEAM's Governing Board,
Minister El Bouari,
Ministers,
Heads of Delegation,*

Thank you for the invitation to address this esteemed assembly. I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Moroccan Minister and his team for the excellent organization of this meeting.

For those who may be unfamiliar, PRIMA is an initiative of 20 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea – 12 European and 8 non-European. This initiative is funded by the participating states, with a significant contribution from the European Union's Horizon Europe program.

Our primary focus is funding research and innovation projects related to water, agriculture, and food systems, all within the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation. To date, we have 250 active projects involving over 2,000 scientific teams across the Mediterranean region. Notably, non-European participation represents a substantial 38% of our collaborative efforts. We are pleased to report significant progress in enhancing agricultural practices, water management, and food security in the region.

I would like to express our gratitude to the participating states for granting PRIMA a three-year extension, continuing our mandate until 2028. Over the past six years, we have invested 450 million euros in research and innovation, paving the way for continued collaboration among our member countries.

Finally, I wish to emphasize that CIHEAM is a strategic partner for PRIMA. We believe that by working together, our organizations can amplify their impact and achieve greater success in addressing the complex challenges facing the Mediterranean region. This collaborative foundation is essential for a fruitful and impactful partnership in the years to come.

Thank you.