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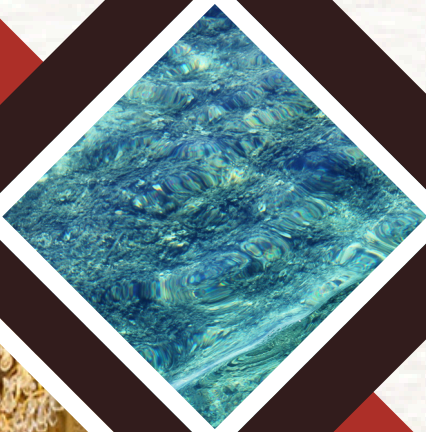
EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA  
EN PARIS

**SECOND EDITION**

# Official Ambassadors' Luncheon

**Ambassadors in Dialogue - CIHEAM for  
Mediterranean Cooperation**

*Mediterranean Forum: Connecting voices, Fostering Solutions*



**DRAFT  
CONCEPT NOTE  
&  
PRELIMINARY  
AGENDA**



**15 April 2026 | 12:00 - 14:30**



**Residence of the  
Ambassador of Spain - Paris**

## Draft Concept note & Preliminary agenda – Official CIHEAM Luncheon

## Official CIHEAM Ambassadors' Luncheon

Ambassadors in Dialogue: Mediterranean Cooperation & Solutions

*Mediterranean Forum: Connecting voices, Fostering Solutions*

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*CIHEAM's Commitment to Mediterranean Cooperation*

### Introduction to CIHEAM

The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1962 to promote sustainable agriculture, food security, and rural development in the Mediterranean region. With 13 member states, CIHEAM operates through its four Mediterranean agronomic institutes in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France), and Zaragoza (Spain).

Through research, education, cooperation, and capacity building, CIHEAM works closely with governments, international institutions, and civil society to address critical Mediterranean challenges, including:

- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Food security and agricultural resilience
- Youth and Women's employment and inclusion
- Scientific and diplomatic cooperation

#### Further Information:

CIHEAM Website: [www.ciheam.org](http://www.ciheam.org)

CIHEAM Brochure: [Download Here](#)

CIHEAM Annual Activity Report: [Download Here](#)

SFS Med Platform initiative: [learn More](#)



**CIHEAM**

## **1) Context and background**

Following the success of the first edition of the CIHEAM Ambassadors' Luncheon, the second edition aims to continue fostering high-level diplomatic engagement with the ambassadors of CIHEAM member countries in Paris.

### ***First Edition Highlights - 9 April 2025, Hôtel de Galliffet***

The inaugural event brought together ambassadors from CIHEAM Member States and other Mediterranean countries, including the Balkans. Organised in partnership with the Permanent Delegation of Italy to the International Organizations in Paris, the luncheon highlighted CIHEAM's dual role: as a leading actor in scientific and technical cooperation, and as an active player in diplomatic and political dialogue to support regional priorities and address pressing Mediterranean challenges.

The event underscored the importance of multilateral collaboration, particularly at a time when global development cooperation faces increasing threats. Participants were briefed on CIHEAM's mission, history, and strategic vision, including its work on climate change, food security, youth inclusion, women's empowerment, innovation, and the transition to sustainable food systems. The CIHEAM network of over 40,000 alumni was highlighted as a key asset for mobilising regional stakeholders, and discussions also touched upon the organisation's enlargement plan, including the potential reintegration of states from the former Yugoslavia.

### ***Value and Impact of the First Luncheon***

The event demonstrated the value of regular dialogue between diplomatic missions and the CIHEAM, providing a platform to share national perspectives, explore cooperation on flagship initiatives, and strengthen multilateral partnerships.

### ***Continuity and the Second Edition***

Building on this momentum, the second edition seeks to preserve and expand the dynamic established during the first luncheon, while presenting upcoming CIHEAM initiatives, including the Ministerial Meeting planned for autumn 2026 in Rome.


More information: [Click here](#).


## 2) Objectives of the Luncheon

This high-level diplomatic event is co-organized by the Embassy of Spain in Paris and the CIHEAM General Secretariat to:

- ✓ **Strengthen Institutional Relations:** Create a space for dialogue and closer ties among representatives of member states, while highlighting the key role of ambassadors as observers and actors representing their nations and related engagements.
- ✓ **Promote CIHEAM's Actions:** Showcase strategic initiatives, flagship projects, and future activities, while raising awareness among embassies about CIHEAM's actions and programs.
- ✓ **Encourage Collaboration:** Identify areas for diplomatic, scientific, and economic cooperation around Mediterranean priorities, and foster discussions on multilateral relations among Mediterranean countries.
- ✓ **Highlight Member Engagement:** Emphasize the importance of dialogue within CIHEAM to support multilateral cooperation and strengthen its relevance in the Mediterranean region.
- ✓ **Discuss CIHEAM's Enlargement:** Continue the discussion on this topic with key stakeholders, emphasizing CIHEAM's role in fostering a more inclusive and larger Mediterranean community, as well as the associated opportunities and challenges.

## 3) Session Overview

 **Date:** Wednesday, 15 April 2026

 **Venue:** Residence of the Ambassador of Spain, 15 Avenue George V, 75008 Paris

### Foreword

#### ***CIHEAM - Spain: a Founding Partnership***

The CIHEAM-Spain relationship is rooted in the Organization's founding history, based on the idea of Mediterranean agricultural cooperation as a driver for peace and development. Spain has been a founding member of CIHEAM since 1962 and has hosted, since 1969, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza ([CIHEAM Zaragoza](#)), a reference centre for postgraduate education, research, and cooperation in Mediterranean agri-food systems.

### ***CIHEAM Ministerial Meeting 2026: Key Priorities***

The working lunch aims to present the main orientations of the CIHEAM Ministerial Meeting planned for 2026 in Rome, a key moment to reaffirm member countries commitment to food security, adaptation of Mediterranean agriculture to climate change, and the strengthening of regional cooperation.

### ***Water: A Strategic Cross-Cutting Issue***

Sustainable water management is a central challenge for the future of Mediterranean agriculture. The meeting will highlight CIHEAM's initiatives in this field, including following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Water Council, as well as upcoming regional events, such as the [7<sup>th</sup> Arab Water Forum](#) in Jeddah (6–8 April 2026) and the [Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum](#) in Rome (29 September – 2 October 2026).

## **Proposed Agenda**

**12:00 – Arrival of the Participants, welcome & Aperitif**

**12:25 – *Official Family Photo of the Ambassadors***

**12:30 – Lunch and Strategic Dialogue**

### **Opening Session**

- **Welcome Remarks**

**H.E. Mr. Victorio Redondo Baldrich, Ambassador of Spain**

**Mr. Teodoro Miano, Secretary General of CIHEAM**

- **Round of Introductions**

*Introduction of participants*

### **Keynote Remarks**

- **Address by H.E. Mr. Victorio Redondo Baldrich, Ambassador of Spain**
- **Speech by Mr. Teodoro Miano, Secretary General of CIHEAM**

## **Institutional and Thematics Highlights**

- **CIHEAM Zaragoza - Cooperation and Gender**

*Presentation by the Director of Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of CIHEAM Zaragoza, Mr. Raúl Compés López*

- Overview of main activities and projects
- Gender-related initiatives & women's empowerment in agriculture, including programs supported by Spain
- Spain-supported programs

- **CIHEAM 2026 Ministerial Meeting - Strategic Outlook**

*Presentation by the Secretary General, Mr. Teodoro Miano*

- Objectives & Strategic orientations
- Main themes, & expected outcomes
- Flagship projects & priority initiatives linked to the meeting

- **Water Management and Regional dialogue**

*Presentation by the Secretary General, Mr. Teodoro Miano*

- Update on ongoing CIHEAM water projects and initiatives
- Strengthening regional cooperation in sustainable water management

## **Debate: Open Discussion and Interactive Exchange**

*Interventions by Ambassadors to share their views on the items presented.*

### **14:15 – Conclusion and Closing**

- Summary of discussions, key takeaways and Perspectives on future collaboration - Mr. Miano, CIHEAM SG
- Closing remarks - H.E. Mr. Ambassador Redondo Baldrich

### **14:30 – End of the Event**

#### 4) Expected Participants

**Ambassadors of the 12 CIHEAM Member States:** Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Türkiye.

**Representative of France:** Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Cyril Kao, French Delegate to the CIHEAM GB

**Ambassadors of Partner Countries:** Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Jordan, Libya, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Palestine, Slovenia, Syria,...

**CIHEAM Representatives:** President, Vice President, Secretary General, Directors, Delegates, Former President, HQ staff.

#### Follow-Up and Next Steps

- **Post-Event Summary:** A report summarizing key points of discussion will be shared with participants.
- **Bilateral Meetings:** Opportunities to deepen discussions and strengthen partnerships.
- **Future Engagement:** CIHEAM will continue working closely with diplomatic missions to enhance Mediterranean cooperation.

 **For further information, please contact:** [petiot@ciheam.org](mailto:petiot@ciheam.org)