



GUEST ADDRESS

Prof. Ioan Jelev
UEAA President in Office

Dear President Skënder GJINUSHI,

Dear Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fatmir Guri,

Dear Deputy Minister of Environment, Elda Xhumari,

Dear Acad. Ilia MIKEREZI, Academy of Sciences of Albania,

Dear Acad. Prof. Fatbardh SALLAKU, Agricultural University of Tirana,

Distinguished members of the General Assembly and the UEAA Steering Committee, with a special greeting for the representatives of the new participating Academies from Spain, Greece and Portugal,

Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a day of high importance for the European academic life in the field of applied sciences in agriculture, food and nature. It is a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome all participants in the works of the XIII General Assembly of the UEAA, the Steering Committee, as well as the associated Scientific Symposium, gathered here today, both in the Hall “Aleks Buda” of the Academy of Science of Albania and online. I extend a warm welcome to the representatives of the new member Academies who are joining us starting today: the Andalusian Academy of Agriculture, Spain, the Greek Agricultural Academy, the representatives of the Young Academies from Lithuania, but also to the Academies that joined the UEAA two years ago, in Bucharest: the Agricultural Academy, Bulgaria, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Academy of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of Moldova.

Soon, on 20 October 2026, we will celebrate 26 years since UEAA was officially founded in Florence. On 13 and 14 November 1999, a public meeting entitled “**European Academies of Agriculture Towards the Year 2000**” was held in Bologna, and during the meeting, several European institutions expressed their interest in taking an initial step towards implementing an idea that the *Accademia dei Georgofili* had been developing for some time: the creation of a Union of European Academies.

At present, the dream and decision of our forefathers has come true, and the UEAA has become an important and respected organization in the European scientific world. I am pleased to greet on this occasion our distinguished colleague, Baiba RIVZA, from Latvia, who had the chance and honour to experience directly these historic events for our organization.

Today, according to UEAA Charter, we expect the election of a new president and “transfer” of presidential office from Bucharest to Tirana. I am convinced that today's General Assembly in Tirana and the associated Symposium: “**Sustainable European Agriculture and Balanced Management of Natural Resources**” will contribute and positively boost European agricultural research. I would like to thank in particular, President Skënder GJINUSHI, a constant friend and supporter of the international cooperation of our academies, for hosting our meeting and our colleague Vice President Nazim GRUDA, for organizing these important events in the life of our Academies.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my highest appreciation for the work carried out by UEAA since 2000 to the present, and especially for its active involvement in the decision-making process in Brussels related to the development of policies and programmatic documents in the field of agriculture, food and nature.

In conclusion, in these moments of great challenges for European agriculture and for our Academies, allow me to wholeheartedly wish you good health, full success in your work, prosperity and fulfilment.

VIVAT, CRESCAT, FLOREAT The Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature (UEAA)!