

## HELLENIC REPUBLIC



### AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS COUNCIL

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Professor Constantinos Christofides  
Rector, University of Cyprus  
Nicosia, Cyprus

Athens, 20 May 2013

Αριθμ. Πρωτ:

Dear Professor Christofides,

The members of the Council of the Agricultural University of Athens warmly welcome your letter of 20 March 2013, received, through the Hellenic Embassy in Nicosia and the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religions, Culture and Athletics, on 24 April 2013. During its recent meeting the Council agreed unanimously that it shares your concerns about the current crisis, which greatly affects Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. We fully agree that Universities have an obligation to contribute to the search for solutions of problems in our society; they could play a major role in overcoming the current crisis. Therefore, I wish to express our willingness to contribute to your initiative and our desire to collaborate with all those having the same goals of a better future for the citizens of our region.

The research and educational goals of our University aim to serve the primary sector of the economy for efficient and increased production of agricultural commodities and related products with no detrimental effects on the environment and our natural resources. Further, it contributes to proper processing of agricultural products into nutritious and safe foods of high quality. In addition to the obvious role of these activities in the survival and well being of people, they are of even more importance in our region as they constitute the heart of the Mediterranean diet with all its worldwide well known benefits. Considering this, a common goal could be the establishment of centers of excellence to collaboratively address issues of mutual interest. In addition, we believe that European universities could jointly raise their voice in support of planning and executing programs beneficial to people in all regions.

In brief, we welcome your initiative and assure you of the willingness of the Council of the Agricultural University of Athens to participate in common activities, either at the bilateral and/or European level, following a mutually agreed multidisciplinary approach.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Sofos'.

Professor John Sofos, President

cc: Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religions, Culture and Athletics  
Professor Feggeros, Rector, Agricultural University of Athens