

Courtesy Translation - English version (for translators)

Greeting Speech

Mr. Andis SALLA
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Republic of Albania

Dear Ministers,

Dear Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Kingdom of Spain,

Distinguished representatives of the International Olive Council,

Dear friends and partners,

It is a great honor to address you today, even if virtually, on the occasion of World Olive Day — a day that unites the traditions, values, and aspirations of our nations.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture of Spain for organizing this important international event.

Albania, as a Mediterranean country and an EU candidate, expresses its full support for the Córdoba Declaration - a document that reinforces our joint commitment to quality, sustainability, and international cooperation.

The olive tree is an integral part of our national identity and of our daily life. It has long been a symbol of peace, of rituals, and of life across the centuries.

Today, the olive sector remains essential for rural areas, for the economy, and for sustainable development.

At a time when climate change, food security, and quality require joint action, Albania is strengthening its quality control systems, supporting producers, and aligning its standards with those of the European Union.

Olive oil is far more than an agricultural product. It is a bridge between cultures, a union of tradition and innovation, and an ambassador of health on our tables.

On this special occasion, Albania reaffirms its commitment to:

- enhancing quality and food safety,
- protecting the environment and rural ecosystems,
- promoting olive oil in international markets,
- and strengthening cooperation with all friendly nations.

Thank you for your cooperation, and Happy World Olive Day!