



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity



**Berlin
Process**



Berlin Notes | 1-2026

Berlin Process – Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Food

EU-Enlargement and Market Integration in Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Berlin, 16 January 2026

Purpose

The Berlin Notes are an informal, action-oriented working document capturing concrete follow-up, cooperation offers and implementation steps emerging from the Ministerial exchange. They complement and do not repeat existing SWG and Berlin Process commitments (Skopje Declaration 2024 and Pristina Conclusion 2025) and remain open to further development in 2026.

1. Berlin Process

Under the Montenegro Berlin Process Chairmanship in 2026, Agriculture, Food and Forestry should receive increased political visibility as drivers of economic integration, rural development and value chain resilience.

2. EU Integration - Harmonisation and Monitoring

SWG will develop a pragmatic harmonisation monitoring approach, supporting implementation of EU related agricultural, SPS, veterinary and forestry requirements and facilitating peer learning and targeted capacity building.

3. Market and Economic Integration

BMLEH and SWG agree to further reinforce economic cooperation in agri-food and forestry, with a focus on trade facilitation, administrative cooperation and legal certainty for operators.

4. SPS Cooperation

Several Countries underlined the importance of SPS alignment for trade integration and France and Bulgaria also expressed readiness to support enhanced SPS cooperation, including the possible development of a dedicated initiative.

5. Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Adaptation

Ministers highlighted sustainable agriculture as essential for long-term competitiveness, food security and EU alignment. Climate adaptation and resilience of agricultural systems, including sustainable management of soil, water and biodiversity, were underlined as key priorities in line with the EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. Innovation, digital tools and knowledge exchange were recognised as important enablers.

6. Generational Renewal

Austria highlighted the importance of generational renewal in agriculture and offered further information exchange on rural development measures for young farmers.

7. Forestry

Forestry was highlighted as a strategic policy area for climate resilience, sustainable land management and EU alignment and should be further reflected in SWG activities.

8. Observers and Partnerships

Poland was invited to become an SWG Observer. The United Kingdom confirmed it is on track to become an SWG Observer, strengthening engagement under the Berlin Process.

9. Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD)

The APD enters its second phase in 2026 as an open Berlin Process platform, involving SWG observers and EU partners and introducing a light progress review mechanism in SWG and ministerial formats.

10. Meetings where this Document should be of positive influence

- Agricultural Policy Forum in Pristina (2.6.-5.6.2026)
- IAMO Forum (18.6.-20.6.2026)
- Berlin Process Business Forum (06.2026)- TBC
- SWG and Berlin Process Agricultural Ministerial Meeting (29.09.-1.10.2026)
- Berlin Process Summit (10.2026)

Outlook

In the future, further editions of the Berlin Notes may be issued on additional themes and key events related to the Berlin Process. The format is intended as a flexible instrument that can be used by all stakeholders involved in the Berlin Process to capture outcomes, document progress, and support implementation. The Berlin Notes also feed into relevant SWG discussions or other Berlin Process formats, thereby reinforcing the practical follow-up to Ministerial exchanges.