

*The FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva visited Brussels
from 27 to 29 November 2013*

FAO Director-General meets with EU Commissioners Maria Damanaki, Andris Piebalgs and Dacian Cioloș and was guest speaker at the EU Conference on Family Farming

On 28 November, José Graziano da Silva, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations attended a meeting with **Maria Damanaki**, EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. In his meeting with Commissioner Damanaki, Graziano da Silva discussed the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, cooperation in the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and specific programmes and regional projects- [Find press release](#)-. On the same day, the FAO Director-General had a meeting with Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, in which they discussed various issues related to food security and nutrition, including pastoralism, aquaculture development and land grabbing.



José Graziano da Silva and Maria Damanaki



Handshake between José Graziano da Silva and Andris Piebalgs

On 29 November, José Graziano Da Silva held a bilateral meeting with **Dacian Cioloș**, European Commissioner responsible for agriculture and rural development. They spoke about Family Farming, FAO-EU collaboration in the Eastern Partnership region and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on tenure of land, fisheries and forests. Later on, they offered an EC/FAO joint press conference, in which Cioloș expressed his strong support for the UN International Year of Family Farming, and stressed the importance of Family Farming in the world. [Find extracts from the joint press conference](#).



José Graziano da Silva and Dacian Cioloș during the meeting and the press conference.



The same day, the FAO Director-General participated in the Opening Session and a High level panel of the Conference on "Family Farming: A dialogue towards more sustainable and resilient farming in Europe and the world". After an introduction by **Loretta Dormal Marino**, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, and the intervention of **Dacian Cioloș**, José Graziano da Silva, delivered a speech on "Expectations of the United Nations and FAO for the 2014 International Year of Family Farming". [Watch the video recording of the conference](#) and [Find the photo coverage](#).



The Director-General also met **members of the EU Parliament** (Keith Taylor and Judith Sargentini) who were the initiators of the Zero Hunger Challenge Declaration presented at the EU Parliament and discussed further collaboration with the Development Committee. At the invitation of the Agriculture Committee, he might also participate in March 2014 to an event in the Parliament on Family Farming.

He had also an exchange of views with **ACP Ambassadors** based in Brussels and **accredited to FAO** on the program of work of the Organization, on the importance of South-South cooperation in the intra-ACP programs and the compliance to standards for the export of commodities.

During a meeting with the **Director-General of the EU Development Cooperation**, Mr Fernando Frutuoso de Melo, he exchanged views on the importance to target agriculture, food security, nutrition and resilience in food insecure and food deficit countries for the next EU programming cycle up to 2020.

He also had interviews with a Portuguese journalist, Ms Paula Borges, working for RDP Africa radio, and with the Italian journalist Angelo Mambro on family farming.



Interview of the Director-General on Family Farming, with a journalist from radio and Portuguese television