VIDEO MESSAGE by Commissioner Vella in support of the #CRIADOenlaUE campaign about aquaculture in Spain

Today we start a week of celebrating aquaculture in Spain.

And we celebrate the impressive success of #CRIADOenlaUE, thanks to the efforts of the Spanish authorities and sector.

So let me start with one simple word: **congratulations**. To the many people involved in bringing the European Commission's #FARMEDintheEU campaign to Spain – thank you for your support.

Our aim is simple.

It's about spreading facts.

It's about teaching the next generation of consumers.

It's about familiarising young people with the "**Farmers in the water**". And showing them the human face of the men and women producing mussels, seabass, algae, oysters or trout.

That is why we have designed a schoolkit. Available, free of charge, for all teachers in the EU to use.

And the results in Spain are remarkable.

Since September, hundreds of students have had the chance to discover aquaculture. Dozens of professionals have had the chance to explain their job.

This makes Spain a real European frontrunner!

And this is no coincidence. Because in aquaculture, Spain is Europe's number one. Nearly one in four producers is Spanish – twenty thousand of them!

And Spain is a leader in research. Hundreds of scientists are involved in EU-funded projects.

As you know, aquaculture has a long history, in many European communities. It is traditional, but it can also be high-tech. The production is diverse: from freshwater to marine fish, from algae to molluscs and crustaceans.

It is the most traceable way to produce seafood, ensuring fresh, local and healthy products. And let me remind you: the EU has the highest production standards in the world!

Last but not least, in many cases aquaculture can be beneficial to the environment!

So you producers and researchers can be proud of your job.

And I hope that this campaign has inspired some of the teenagers you met to join you in the future.

So thank you again for taking part in #CRIADOenlaUE.

And thank you to all the teachers who were involved. You are the link between youth, science and industry.

I wish you a very fruitful event during which I am sure you will learn many unknown stories about aquaculture. Congratulations and keep up the good work!