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PRESS RELEASE

**Minister for Rural Development and Food and Minister for
Environment and Energy visit DODONI**

Minister for Rural Development and Food Makis Voridis and Minister for Environment and Energy Kostis Hatzidakis visited the DODONI dairy industry Tuesday 17 September as part of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' tour of Ioannina, in north-west Greece.

The two ministers were welcomed to the company plant in Ioannina by CEO Tom Seepers, Deputy CEO Michalis Panagiotakis and, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Vice-chairman Ioannis Vitalis.

Company management briefed both ministers on DODONI's progress and contribution to the local economy and community, as well as on its investment plan for the next few years.

As company officials noted, supporting the primary sector is a priority for DODONI, as the manufacture of excellent, pure products is integrally linked to procuring excellent raw materials.

The need to establish an interprofessional organisation to protect feta cheese was also mentioned, as it is certain to make a decisive contribution to protecting the authenticity of feta cheese, its Protected Designation of Origin status and the control of large-scale imports of milk used illegally to make the particular product.

The two ministers were given a tour of DODONI's modern facilities and the new yoghurt production line, which represents an investment of more than €5 million made in the past two years.

As DODONI Deputy CEO Michalis Panagiotakis said: *"It is a great honour for us to present our significant results, seven years after the company was privatised. Currently, with more than 500 employees, the largest milkshed in Greece and a steadily growing presence on both the Greek and foreign markets, with exports to 52 countries worldwide, DODONI is an outstanding success story that could serve as an example for other successful privatisations in the future."*