

Press Release

## **DODONI inaugurates two new production units in Ioannina**

*The inauguration speech was given by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis*

The inauguration of DODONI's two new state-of-the-art production units, one for the production of **plant-based products and the other for hard cheese packaging** at its manufacturing facilities in Eleousa, Ioannina, was held with great success.

The new units, which had a total budget of **2 million euros**, are part of the five-year development plan launched by the company's management.

The blessing was given by His Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Ioannina, Maximos, while the official inauguration speech was given by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in the presence of the President of the Parliament and Member of Parliament for Ioannina, Mr Konstantinos Tasoulas, members of the government, local MPs, the Regional Governor of Epirus, Mr Alexandros Kahrimani, local authorities, agricultural bodies, producers and livestock breeders from the Epirus region, as well as employees of the company.

The Prime Minister and the attendees were welcomed by Mr Ioannis Vitalis, Vice-President of DODONI, and President of the National Interprofessional Organisation for Feta, who expressed his appreciation for the founding of the organisation, which is essential to the protection and promotion of this national product. At the same time, he also spoke about the leading role of DODONI feta cheese within and beyond the borders of the country, as a worthy ambassador of Greek industry, and as a practical supporter of Greek livestock farming.

The Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, noted that *DODONI, as an iconic manufacturer in the dairy industry, is inextricably associated with the city of Ioannina and the Epirus region, having shown significant growth and development, and having achieved great things in recent years. In addition, he stressed that the development of the area is related to developments in the field, which is achieved through new investments, new jobs and partnerships with producers, creating overall prosperity for the local community, while he also stressed the government's continuing concern for the protection of Greek feta, as well as providing support for the primary sector and livestock farming as important priorities.*

The President of the Union of Transhumant Livestock Breeders of Epirus, Mr Yiannis Dekolis mentioned the *inseparable connections that DODONI has forged with its thousands of producers. He thanked the Prime Minister for his interest in the primary sector, and asked for even greater support for the new generation of livestock farmers.*

Mr Michalis Panagiotakis, CEO of DODONI, emphasised the following in his speech: *'Today, we are celebrating much more than just the opening of our new production units. We are celebrating 60 years since the founding of DODONI. A new era began for the company a decade ago and we feel very proud of it. The inauguration of the two new units represents two more important connecting links in the overall structuring for further expansion into new categories and groups of consumers. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the people of DODONI, to our producers, and to all those who contributed so rapidly and readily to the timely completion of the works'.*

Inspired by DODONI's overarching vision to be the consumers' first choice for their most important nutritional needs, the two units are equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and their operation will

be commencing very shortly. The company has doubled its staff in the last decade, to become one of the largest and most important employers in the wider Epirus region.