QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Study on the implementation of conformity checks in the olive oil sector throughout the EU

DG/Unit: DG AGRI, Unit G4

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Evaluator/contractor: **Areté s.r.l.** *Research & Consulting in Economics*

Assessment carried out by the Unit G4

Date of the Quality Assessment: 18 December 2019

(1) RELEVANCE

Does the evaluation respond to information needs, in particular as expressed in the terms of references?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The contractor identified the needs derived from the conformity checks and the tools implemented by Member States. The study deals very well in providing the Commission with a precise understanding on how conformity checks are performed at national level.

(2) APPROPRIATE DESIGN

Is the design of the evaluation adequate for obtaining the results needed to answer the evaluation questions?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The study method chosen is coherent with study needs and requests. The method is adequately described. The information sources and analysis tools chosen by the contractor are adequate for analysing the conformity checks national system in place at national level.

(3) RELIABLE DATA

Are data collected adequate for their intended use and have their reliability been ascertained?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

Available information and sources are well identified notably through the conduct of nine case studies in the Member States. It contributed greatly to a good mapping of the existing implementation systems put in place by Member States. The quantification of the conformity checks was carried out through a combination of desk research, interviews with the Member States, business and consumer's associations and market operators. The data gathered in the case studies is sufficient for the purpose. Data collection rationale is explained, and it is coherent with the design of the study. The quality of existing or collected data was assessed as robust. The amount of qualitative information and quantitative data is balanced and appropriate for a valid and reliable analysis in general terms.

(4) SOUND ANALYSIS

Are data systematically analysed to answer evaluation questions and cover other information needs in a valid manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

There is a clear, solid and coherent analysis of the quantitative data and qualitative information stemming from the nine case studies performed in Member States which have been carefully analysed. The context of the conformity checks in the sector of olive oil and the difficulties faced at national level are well taken into account in the analysis. The report reflects appropriately the information issued by the Member States and stakeholders consulted.

(5) CREDIBLE FINDINGS

Do findings follow logically from and are justified by, the data/information analysis and interpretations based on pre-established criteria and rational?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The findings are based on clearly defined evaluation criteria and supported by the evidence provided through the analysis. Stakeholders and Member States' opinions were considered and reflected.

(6) VALID CONCLUSIONS

Are conclusions non-biased and fully based on findings?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The conclusions properly address the findings of the study. They are based on the evaluation findings, drawn from the analysis. The recommendations are based on the findings and the conclusions, are fair and balanced. They are orderly presented and related.

(7) HELPFUL RECOMMENDATIONS

Are areas needing improvements identified in coherence with the conclusions? Are the suggested options realistic and impartial?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The contractor identified relevant best practices in the implementation of the conformity checks system and in the organisation and functioning of the olive oil sector. The contractor formulated valid suggestions to improve the system of conformity checks.

(8) CLARITY

Is the report well structured, balanced and written in an understandable manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The report includes all elements required by the tender specifications. The report is well drafted and structured and reads very well.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE FINAL REPORT

Is the overall quality of the report adequate, in particular:

- Does the report fulfil contractual conditions?

YES

- Are the findings and conclusions of the report reliable, and are there any specific limitations to their validity and completeness?

YES. There are no specific limitations to their validity and completeness.

- Is the information in the report potentially useful for designing intervention, setting priorities, allocating resources or improving interventions?]

YES. The report will help the Commission and the Member States improve the conformity checks system.