

**WORKING DOCUMENT
OF THE “WORKING GROUP ON OLIVES”
OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON “HORTICULTURE, OLIVES AND SPIRITS”**

**Meeting by written procedure
(18 – 30 June 2020)**

**List of questions on which the Commission would like to have expert’s views.
Any EU language can be used to reply to the questions.**

Agenda item 1: Exchange of views on the state of the market situation of the olive oil sector.

Production

- How do you explain the current market situation in the olive oil sector, and in particular high stocks, low prices, increased growing area and increased imports from third countries?
- How do you see the future of traditional groves in a context of low prices and pressure from other production systems (such as irrigated system or more intensive production systems)?

EU consumption

- Could you briefly describe the consequences of the Covid19 pandemic on olive oil consumption on the short and medium term?
- How strong has household consumption of olive oil increased in your country during containment measures? In your view, how sustainable will the increase be in the coming months?
- Is this increase sufficient to compensate for the loss of consumption due to the closure/restrictions in the catering sector?
- Is the impact of the decline in tourism and touristic activities directly linked to olive oil in the coming months measurable? Could you please share your views on the extent this could have on consumption?

Imports from third countries

- European stocks of olive oil are at a very high level. Despite that situation, imports from third countries have increased. Could you share your analysis of that situation?

Exports to third countries

- Since the beginning of the sanitary crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic, exports to China and Japan fell only slightly, whilst exports to the U.S. and Brazil have strongly increased, resulting in a stable situation at EU level in

respect to exports. Could you please share your views on the evolution of trade of European olive oil in the coming months?

Agenda item 2: Exchange of views on the state of the market situation of the table olives sector.

- The United States has targeted Spanish (ES) ripe olives with AD/CVD and green olives with import duties. The impact on ES exports to the U.S. is significant. However, Spanish exports of table olives keep increasing thanks to other destinations (likely with lower export value). In addition to developing alternative exports markets, are olive growers shifting from table olives to olive oil production when technically and timely possible?