

Brussels,
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FINAL MINUTES

*Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group HORTICULTURE, OLIVES AND SPIRITS –
Sub-group Olives
22 October 2019*

Chair: Rafael SANCHEZ DE PUERTA (COGECA)

Organisations present: All Organisations were present, except EFNCP, EPHA, SACAR, Birdlife and TomatoEurope.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

3. List of points discussed

- *Restitution from the Working Group on olives market situation and technical issues of 22/10/2019 (morning)*

DG AGRI, G.4, presented the outcome of the discussion and highlighted in particular the following points:

- an important decrease in prices has been observed in the olive oil market, especially in Spain, where the prices are below the 5 years average;
- the development in the Spanish market affected also the other countries, where prices are pulled down;
- foreseen production is around 1,150,000 tons in Spain, 350,000 tons in Italy, 270/290,000 tons in Greece;
- duties on Spanish olives are likely to affect the EU market;
- irrigated surfaces are on the rise in Spain and Portugal, and to a lower degree in Italy and Greece as well;
- table olives production in Spain is decreasing.

- *Presentation and exchange of views on US additional duties on olive oil in the context of US/EU dispute on large civil aircraft*

DG AGRI, A.3, informed the participants that the Commission is actively seeking for a resolution of the trade conflict with the US and gave an update on the situation.

Copa-Cogeca claimed that the duties are unjust and that they have the potential to affect the whole olive oil and olives market of the EU, not only Spain. Furthermore, it asked for dedicated actions and funds that are likely to alleviate the pressure on the market. As regards to the private storage aid, Copa-Cogeca asked that the tender system is replaced with a decision ex ante on the amount of the aid.

Food Drink Europe insisted on the need to have dedicated measures to help operators and that those should not limit to promotion actions.

- *Presentation and exchange of views on promotion programs for olive oil*

DG AGRI, B.1, presented an overview of the approved promotion programs in the olive oil sector and encouraged the participants to look into the next submission period that will start in January 2020.

BEUC highlighted the importance of promotion actions in particular as regards to a correct information of consumers on the health benefits of olive oil consumption. In addition it asked the Commission whether an impact study is done for these programs.

The **Commission** confirmed that an impact analysis is done for both simple and multi-programmes.

Food Drink Europe asked the Commission to look into the possibility of having more flexibility as regards to the financial rules of the promotion programs, in particularly those approved for the US markets.

The **Commission** confirmed that the legal services are currently looking into the legislation to see what is or could be possible.

- *Presentation and exchange of views on Xylella fastidiosa*

DG SANTE, G.1, gave an overview of the situation of Xylella spread in Europe and informed the participants on the new Plant Health Law disposition as regards to priority pests.

- *Presentation and exchange of views on discussions in relation to marketing standards*

DG AGRI, G.4:

- presented a technical update of the latest meetings at the IOC of experts on methods of analysis for olive oils and organoleptic assessment, in particular as regards the 14th revision of the IOC trade standard proposed to be adopted at the upcoming 110th Council session in November 2019 including a new decision tree for olive oils displaying anomalous parameters and the state of play on the different working groups (e.g. determination of stigmastadiene, quantification of erythrodiol and uvaol, the guide for verifying the conformity of a declared category, storage guidelines);
- informed the members that the final report of the study on the implementation of conformity checks in the olive oil sector throughout the EU– should be published by the end of 2019;
- informed on the state of play of the OLEUM project and future workshops organised in the framework of the project;
- informed the members that the eWG Codex Alimentarius was re-conducted. The IOC established five working groups to provide technical inputs on important remaining issues (fatty acids, ordinary virgin olive oil, median of defect, ethyl ester, PPP &DAG).

Food Drink Europe asked the Commission to support the participation of stakeholders' representatives as observer in the IOC meeting of experts on methods of analysis as it is already the case for the meeting on organoleptic assessment.

CELCAA and **Copa-Cogeca** alleged that in Germany several distributors are asking to comply with private marketing standards and insisted on the need to ensure that these private standards don't become a barrier to the market.

ECVC claimed that blends of different categories of olive oils should be banned.

The **Commission** informed the members that horizontal rules for IOC expert groups are being elaborated by the executive secretariat of the IOC and that the EU (as other IOC members) is contributing to that work.

BEUC insisted on the need to follow closely IOC works and to give a new impetus to the organisation.

- *CAP reform: update on the legislative process*

DG AGRI, G.4, gave an overview of the CAP discussions from the Parliament and Council side.

Copa-Cogeca insisted on the need to delete the limitation of sectoral interventions to 5% of the marketed product of the demanding entity.

ECVC asked news regarding the transitional period and the relevant legislative acts.

The **Commission** informed the members that a draft proposal for the transitional period should be published by the end of the year.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

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5. Next steps

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6. Next meeting

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Disclaimer

"The opinions expressed in this report represent the point of view of the meeting participants from agriculturally related NGOs at community level. These opinions cannot, under any circumstances, be attributed to the European Commission. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of the here above information."

List of participants– Minutes

Civil Dialogue Group Horticulture, Olives and Spirits – Subgroup Olives
22/10/2019

MEMBER ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Bureau Européen des Unions des Consommateurs (BEUC)	1
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	7
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	2
European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)	1
European farmers (COPA)	9
European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)	2
European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP)	-----
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	1
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)	-----
FoodDrinkEurope	6
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Regional Group (IFOAM EU Group)	1
Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe)	1
SACAR - Secrétariat des Associations du Commerce Agricole Réuniones / Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Associations (SACAR)	-----
Stichting BirdLife Europe (BirdLife Europe)	-----
TomatoEurope	-----
Total: 31	