



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
 Directorate G Markets and observatories  
 G 4. Arable crops and olive oil

Brussels  
 AGRI DDG3 [Art. 4.1(b) Privacy] (1.3.3.7-3) (2021)  
 5257949

**Subject: Minutes of the meeting with COPA-COGECA on olive oil – 19 July 2021 – Videoconference**

Participants:

- DG AGRI-G4: [Art. 4.1(b) Privacy]
- COPA-COGECA: [Art. 4.1(b) Privacy]

The main objective was to discuss the future CAP and its implications for the olive sector.

Sectoral interventions for olive oil and the established ceiling for EU financing based on the value of marketed production by Producer Organisations:

Regarding that ceiling, [Art. 4.1(b) Privacy] explained the outcome of the negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament. [Art. 4.1(b) Privacy] reminded that such ceiling had been included in the initial proposal of the Commission, based on the experience gained in the Fruit & Vegetables sector and its efficiency as regards concentration of supply in particular. In the course of the negotiations, the level of the ceiling departed from the 5% initially foreseen to reach 30% in 2023-2024, 15% in 2025-2026 and 10% as from 2027. This, to allow Member States currently implementing work programmes in the olive sector to gradually adjust to this new provision and avoid under-execution of their budgetary envelopes.

[Art. 4.1(b) Privacy] clarified that co-financing from National authorities will be possible up to 50% of the part not covered by the Union financial assistance.

[Art. 4.1(b) Privacy] explained the differences between the rules that will apply to Italy, Greece and France for sectoral interventions in the olive sector and the rules that will apply to any other Member State deciding to support its olive sector through the “other sectors” section of the Regulation.

[Art. 4.1(b) Privacy] pointed out that there are no producer organisations (POs) in Spain in the olive sector but the Ministry is working on the legislation to recognise them. [Art. 4.1(b) Privacy] informed that under the “other sectors” section of the Regulation, producer groups or cooperatives in the process to be recognised as POs will be able to benefit from sectoral interventions, under certain conditions.

Supply management mechanisms in order to support the olive oil sector during crisis:

**Art. 4.1f** considered that the Commission did not react fast enough following the record harvest of 2018/19, and that Private Storage Aid was not sufficient to tackle low prices in the EU. He thanked the Commission for the inclusion of Article 167a in the CMO Regulation and asked for reference prices to be updated.

**Art. 4.1f** confirmed the importance of Article 167a for the olive oil sector, that gives the possibility for the sector to self-regulate its supply, and mentioned that important producing Member States such as Spain are already developing the relevant national legislation. This tool should allow counterbalancing the cyclical events as described. **Art. 4.1g** disagreed that PSA, activated for olive oil in 2019/20 marketing year, did not have an impact on prices. On the contrary, many experts mentioned that this supported EU prices for a period of time. Finally, **Art. 4.1g** highlighted the role of the promotion policies co-funded by the EU to increase demand and support the sector.

**Art. 4.1h** finally mentioned the new possibility to apply supply management rules to PDO/PGI agricultural products and olive oil in particular, in the future amended CMO regulation.

#### Role of traditional olive groves on the future CAP:

**Art. 4.1j** shared some information on the structure of the Italian olive sector. The average olive grove in Italy is less than 2 hectares, with 800 000 small agricultural holdings involved in olive oil production. The sector needs, not only to increase its competitiveness, but also to guarantee the continuity of these small farmers.

**Art. 4.1k** explained that sectoral interventions may help to improve multiple aspects of the olive sector. She also reminded on the different direct payments schemes (redistributive payment, payment to young farmers,...).

#### Promotion policies for olive oil, especially for traditional olive production:

**Art. 4.1l** explained the new EU promotion policy, currently in discussion, and the impact of the Green Deal and the F2F. Olive oil production, and in particular traditional cultivation, is very well suited for these new initiatives, as a healthy product with a big potential in terms of sustainability (economic, social and environmental), a key criteria for the new promotional programmes.

Finally, **Art. 4.1m** enquired on the ongoing production campaign in EU Member States. **Art. 4.1n** confirmed that olive trees were not affected by the spring frost in Italy and the harvest could be good, especially in the south. In Spain, the situation is less optimistic. Production may not be higher than 1.4 million tonnes, and this only in case conditions are adequate for the remaining months, which is not guaranteed.

Electronically signed

**Art. 4.1(b) Privacy**