



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

APPLICANTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Addendum

An application for observer status in the SPS Committee was received on 21 March 2022 from the International Olive Council (IOC). Information provided by IOC is summarized below.

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1. Membership includes 18 members as listed below:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Albania* | 7. Iran** | 13. Morocco* |
| 2. Algeria** | 8. Israel* | 14. Palestine*** |
| 3. Argentina* | 9. Jordan* | 15. Tunisia* |
| 4. Egypt* | 10. Lebanon** | 16. Turkey* |
| 5. European Union* | 11. Libya** | 17. Uruguay* |
| 6. Georgia* | 12. Montenegro* | 18. Uzbekistan** |

* WTO Member.

** WTO Observer.

*** Not a WTO Member or Observer.

2 MANDATE, SCOPE AND AREA OF WORK

2.1. The IOC is an intergovernmental organization established in Madrid, Spain, in 1959 under the auspices of the United Nations to bring together stakeholders in the production and consumption of olive oil and table olives. It is a decisive stakeholder contributing to the sustainable and responsible development of olive growing and a global forum in which members debate policy issues and address current and future challenges.

2.2. The IOC operates at both national and international levels, assisting member countries to improve and develop the olive oil and table olive sector, but also facilitating coordination between member countries to encourage the expansion of international trade in olive oil and table olives, to develop and update product trade standards in order to improve quality, and to promote global consumption. IOC producer member countries contribute approximately 94% of world olive oil production.

2.3. Among the main objectives of the IOC, as defined in the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015, are:

- To achieve uniformity in national and international legislation relating to the physico-chemical and organoleptic characteristics of olive oils, olive pomace, and table olives in order to prevent any obstacle to trade;
- To conduct activities in the area of physico-chemical and organoleptic testing in order to consolidate international standards, thereby enabling product quality control, developing

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the position of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

international trade, protecting consumer rights and preventing of fraudulent practices and adulteration;

- To coordinate studies and research on the nutritional qualities and other intrinsic properties of olive oils and table olives;
- To facilitate the exchange of information on international trade flows;
- To promote technical cooperation and research and development in the olive sector by encouraging the cooperation of public or private bodies and/or entities, whether national or international.

3 CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

3.1. Given that Article 1 of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015 provides that one of the objectives of the International Olive Council is to expand international trade in olive oil and table olives and to facilitate the exchange of information on international trade, the IOC has a direct interest in trade policy issues. Additionally, given that one of the objectives of the IOC is to achieve uniformity of national and international legislation relating to the physico-chemical and organoleptic characteristics of olive oils, olive-pomace oils and table olives in order to prevent any obstacle to trade, discussions on sanitary and phytosanitary measures are of great importance.

3.2. According to article 20 of the above-mentioned Agreement, the members of the International Olive Council undertake to apply the designations prescribed in annexes B and C, on olive oils and olives pomaces as well as on types of table olives, in their international trade and shall encourage their application. The Council of Members determines quality and purity criteria standards applicable to the international trade of the members.

3.3. Overall, IOC's interventions in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary measures focus on the following:

- Coordinate studies and research on the nutritional qualities, in particular with Codex Alimentarius as the reference organisation;
- Coordinates with the World Customs Organization;
- Development of recommended joint guides for the quality control;
- Organise expert working groups to develop methods of analysis, submit proposals to modify or create methods, establish approaches to quality and authenticity, validate methods and collect data;
- Certification for physico-chemical and sensory laboratories.

4 RECIPROCITY

4.1. The International Olive Council respects the principle of reciprocity by recognizing the possibility, in the 2015 International Agreement, of granting observer status to other international organizations through Article 8.6) of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015.
