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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate E – Markets
The Director (acting)

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MINUTES

Meeting of the

EXPERT GROUP FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETS, IN PARTICULAR CONCERNING ASPECTS FALLING UNDER THE CMO REGULATION

SUBGROUP ARABLE CROPS AND OLIVE OIL

24 July 2025

Chair: E.4

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non public.

3. List of points discussed

1. AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

The JRC MARS Bulletin reports that a hot start to summer challenges summer crops but positive developments are to be reported for winter crops.

Excessive rainfall in the Baltic region complicates field work and poses risks for winter crop yields. In Finland and Estonia, fieldwork operations have been complicated by excessive wetness that may limit field access, favour the development of crop diseases and localised hypoxia, and – if persisting – may negatively affect the winter crop yield.

Hot spells occurred in most of Europe (except in the Baltic Sea region), with up to 25 days (even more in parts of southern Europe) with daily maximum temperatures above 30 °C. This prolonged period led to a temperature surplus in most of these regions, with average daily temperatures up to 4 °C above the LTA and maximum daily temperatures of up to 40 °C. A distinct **rainfall deficit** was observed in most of the Balkan peninsula, parts of Hungary, most of Romania, central and eastern Ukraine and most of Türkiye, as well as in parts of Italy, southern Germany, western and southern France and parts of the Iberian peninsula.

In southern Spain and southern Portugal, the **very high temperatures** in June and at the beginning of July were suboptimal for rainfed or late-planted summer crops, most notably sunflowers. In western regions of France, summer crops are currently facing difficulties because of the hot and dry weather combined with a reduced water supply. In Germany, low precipitation since mid-June combined with high temperatures increased stress on summer crops, mainly in the south and north-east.

Rain deficit combined with high temperatures affected **summer crops** developments, notably in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and less prominently in southern Spain, Slovenia, Croatia and in Italy. In Romania, Bulgaria and Greece, the hot and dry weather minimally affected winter crops, as they were already close to maturity, but strongly reduced the available soil moisture for summer crops. Low reservoir and river levels also reduced the amount of water available for irrigation. In Italy, very high temperatures at end of June shortened the grain-filling period of winter crops and the flower fertility of early-planted maize. In central Italy, high temperatures were coupled with low soil moisture that affected the grain filling of soft wheat and the vegetative growth of sunflowers.

Winter crop **yield expectations** are above-average in Romania, Bulgaria, France, Spain, Ireland, the Nordic countries and the Baltic countries, thanks to a sufficient water supply along the season. Around-average yields are expected in Germany, Poland and Hungary. Only in Italy yields are reduced due to heat and water stress.

PL delegation reported slow progress of harvest due to rains. FR delegation highlighted good harvest progress, difficulties in exports leading to high stocks at the end of the season and drop in peas production reaching 30%. LV delegation referred to unfavourable weather conditions (excessive precipitations) that last already since last month and further deteriorated.

2. SUGAR

2.1. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SUGAR MARKET SITUATION

The Commission presented the latest developments in global prices for raw sugar (NY11) and white sugar (LD5) since the last GREX meeting at the end of June. Prices continued to trend downwards until the beginning of July and then started to recover somewhat.

World market prices for **raw sugar** (NY11) reached a four-year low, at USD 15.48 cents per pound (EUR 289 per tonne) on 1 July, but recovered to above USD 16 cents for most of the rest of the month, hitting its highest level of USD 16.82 cents per pound (EUR 318 per tonne) on 18 July. At the same time, **world white sugar price** (LD5) continued its declining path, reaching USD 458.8 per tonne (EUR 390.3) on the 2 July, a level last seen in August 2021. Since then, the LD5 showed a reverse trend with some fluctuation. On 18 July, the world white sugar price was USD 487.7 per tonne (about EUR 419).

Major driver for the decline until the beginning of July could be found particularly in an increase of global sugar supply due to "potential deliveries" from Argentina,

Mexico and Central America. The price growth since the second week of July can be attributed to an import announcement by the Philippines, Pakistani import tenders, as well as lower Brazilian sugar output. In the week after, increase in sugar global price was further supported by low rainfall in India and lower sugar content in harvested cane in Brazil. Finally, to understand whether Brazilian sugar will lose competitiveness in the US market, a close eye will be needed on the US-Brazilian trade negotiations, given the tariff announcements.

The Commission did not report an update for the **EU sugar selling price**, as the notification deadline is after the GREX. The latest available EU sugar prices are those for May, at EUR 540 per tonne, unchanged from the previous month (and -35% y-o-y). Sugar sold through short-term contracts, recorded a drop of EUR 12 and reached EUR 562 per tonne in April. Sugar sold through short-term contracts in April represented 2.6% of all sugar sold in that month.

A preliminary update on the **EU retail buying price** was shared. For May, the price increased with 1.2% reaching EUR 692 per tonne. The same time last year, the price showed a brief upsurge after which it continued its decline that started in the spring 2023.

The Commission presented the preliminary **sugar beet price** for the marketing year 2023/24. The EU weighted average price reached EUR 52.5 per tonne (+EUR 10.4 y-o-y). One communication on sugar beet prices is still missing.

Regarding trade, the Commission noted the continued slow pace of preferential **imports** nine months into the marketing year. Based on COMEXT and TAXUD data, EU sugar imports reached almost 440 000 tonnes (-63% or -757 000 tonnes y-o-y). Ukrainian exports to the EU increased significantly since March, and the country consolidated its position as leading import origin, representing 21% total EU imports. Last marketing year, this Ukraine represented 43% of all imports with a total quantity of about 511 000 tonnes. Other origins with a share over 10% are the UK, Mauritius, and Colombia.

On the **export** side, the EU delivered 1.33 million tonnes of white sugar (+18% compared to last year or +202 000 tonnes) up to July. Sugar shipped to Israel (15% of the total) have surpassed those to the UK (12%) and Lebanon (7%). High fragmentation of European exports is a feature of this season. The top three destinations only represent about a third of total EU exports.

Sugar stocks level at the end of May were at slightly below 7.5 million tonnes, a decrease of 15% compared to the previous month (or -1.36 million tonnes) and 1% lower than the same month last marketing year.

The Commission updated the Member States on the **sugar beet yield forecast** for the season 2025/26 provided by the JRC in its July edition of the Mars Bulletin. Overall, the EU sugar beet yield is set at 74.8 tonnes per hectare, down from the 76.3 reported in June, mainly driven by a downwards adjustment of yields in DE.

The Commission reported concerns caused by the presence of Stolbur disease in the South of Germany and yellow virus in all beet regions in France. The Commission

asked Member States to report on the situation in the fields for sugar beets. DE confirmed the information on the Stolbur disease the EC reported.

FR asked for some clarifications on the preliminary sugar beet price and on the methodology of sugar (retail) buying price (calculation and reporting countries). The Commission explained that figures for sugar beet are still preliminary, due to one missing notification. On the buying prices calculation, the Commission recalled that the EU prices result as weighted average of the figures reported by the Member States . In the next GREX, the Commission will share the compliance table for the retail buying price.

3. CEREALS – RICE – OILSEEDS – PROTEINS

3.1. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE GLOBAL CEREALS MARKET SITUATION

International Grains Council (IGC) on global cereals outlook:

Mainly linked to large maize and wheat harvests, **total world grains** production is forecast at a record 2 376.3 million tonnes in 2025/26 (-0.8m m/m; +2.6% y/y). Including new highs for food use, as well as for feeding and industrial use, consumption is predicted at an all-time high of 2 376.1 million tonnes (+3.3m m/m; +1.5% y/y). Closing stocks are placed at 581.5 million tonnes (-4.6m m/m; +0.0% y/y).

Global **all-wheat production** is forecast at a record 808.3 million tonnes (+0.4m m/m; +1.1% y/y). Including bumper harvests in RO and BG, as well as strong rebound in FR, EU harvest is forecast at 137.2 million tonnes (+14.9% y/y). Early harvest results indicated poor yields in southern Russia, however productivity is expected to improve as cutting starts in central regions, as well. The forecast is maintained at 81.7 million tonnes (+0.5%).

Driven by a potentially record food use (570.7m t; +2.0% y/y), world **consumption** is forecast at a new high of 814.1 million tonnes (+1.5% y/y), incl. 151.4 million tonnes (+0.6%) for feeding. Stocks are forecast to contract for the third year in a row reaching a seven-year low of 264.7 million tonnes (-2.1% y/y).

Following reduced outlook for EU imports (-2.0m m/m to 6.4m t; -41.3% y/y), world trade (July/June) is forecast at 203.4 million tonnes (-1.9m m/m; +3.1% y/y) in 2025/26. While Russia is expected to remain the leading exporter (42.8m t; -4.9% y/y), shipments could decline to a four-year low due to tighter availabilities. Exports by the EU are forecast at 30.0m t (-1.0m m/m; +18.8% y/y).

Maize: assuming record area and yield, IGC projects world **production** at a new peak of 1 275.8 million tonnes (+0.1m m/m; +3.9% y/y). Linked to excessive heat and drought impacting crop development in central and S/E regions, the EU output was lowered by 1.7m m/m to 60.3 million tonnes (+1.5% y/y). Reflecting nearly ideal conditions and updated official area estimate, the US crop was raised to a record 398.9 million tonnes (+5.6%).

Maize consumption is forecast at a record of 1 272.4 million tonnes (+3.9m m/m; +2.0% y/y), incl. 751.7m t (+2.4%) for feeding and 342.2m t (+2.0%) for industrial use. Of the industrial utilisation, 192m t (+2%) is for ethanol production. Closing stocks were lowered to 278.4 million tonnes (-3.8m m/m; +1.2% y/y), tighter than recent average.

World trade is projected at 186.9 million tonnes (July/June; +1.1m m/m and +0.9% y/y). EU imports are expected to increase by 0.5m y/y to 20.0m t. US will be the leading exporter, followed by Brazil and Argentina.

Market news and price developments

Due to limited supplies, grain exports from **Ukraine** started slower in 2025/26 (July/June) than a year ago. As of 18 July, grain exports reached 0.7 million tonnes (-68% y/y), including wheat at 0.3m t (-68%) and maize at 0.4m t (-66%).

With the start of marketing year 2025/26, **Russian** grain exports are not limited by quotas. The variable export tax scheme, with the rates set on a weekly basis in RUB, is maintained. However, reflecting the strengthening of the RUB and the lower export prices, the tax is currently fixed at zero for barley and wheat.

According to the updated official outlook, **Canadian** all-wheat production is forecast at 34.4 million tonnes (-1.5% y/y), incl. 5.6 million tonnes of durum wheat (-5.1%). Durum exports are expected to drop more significantly than output, reaching 4.6 million tonnes (-15%).

Government agency CONAB lifted again its forecast for total **Brazilian** maize production in 2024/25. Total output is now forecast at 132.0 million tonnes (+3.7m m/m; +14.3% y/y), incl. 24.9m t for the first crop (+8.5%) and potentially a record 104.5m t (+3.5m m/m; +16.1% y/y) for the second crop. Boosted by strong demand for feeding and ethanol production, domestic consumption is forecast at 90.0 million tonnes (+7.1% y/y), while exports are expected to decrease modestly to 36.0 million tonnes (+2.0m m/m; -2.5m t y/y).

Maize prices increased modestly for the main origins supported by strong demand. **Wheat prices** followed mixed trends, as quotations decreased in Canada due to improved growing conditions and the US linked to stronger USD and advancing harvests. In contrast, EU and Black Sea prices were supported by slower harvest and more reluctant producer selling.

Wheat price for FR Rouen (fob export) decreased slightly to USD 236 per tonne (- USD 3) for July delivery. Russian milling wheat increased by USD 7 to around USD 234 per tonne. US wheat prices decreased considerably amid advancing harvests. US Soft Red Winter wheat fell by USD 11 to USD 221 per tonne and the Hard Red Winter wheat lost USD 14 reaching USD 235 per tonne.

Maize prices (fob export) increased for Ukrainian old crop (USD 240 per tonne), while new crop is quoted at around USD 214 per tonne for October. Prices for Argentina (USD 200) and the US Gulf (USD 203) are USD 5 higher m/m, while Brazilian prices

gained USD 6 to USD 209 per tonne as competition is strong for available supplies, both from exporters and domestic users.

3.2. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE EU CEREALS MARKET SITUATION

EU cereals production for **2024/25** is unchanged at **255.2 million tonnes**. Taking into account the current pace of trade, **2024/25 common wheat exports** were revised up to 24.3 million tonnes (+0.3million tonnes).

EU cereals production for **2025/26** was revised down to **278.4 million tonnes** (-4.5 million tonnes month-on-month). **Total cereals area** was revised down to **49.8 million hectares**, 1.4% higher than 2024-25. **Soft wheat** production is projected at **127.3 million tonnes** (+14% year-on-year, +3.4% compared to the five-year average). **Maize** production is seen at **60.1 million tonnes** (+0.9% year-on-year, +3.7% compared to the five-year average) and **barley** production is projected at **53.6 million tonnes** (+9.1% year-on-year, +5.8% compared to the five-year average).

As regards the other items of the balance sheet, the consumption and trade forecast remain unchanged. **Total imports** are expected to be 6.1 million tonnes lower than previous marketing year (from 31.8 to 25.7 million tonnes), mainly on expected lower soft wheat imports. While the **total exports** are projected to be 9.0 million tonnes higher (from 36.4 to 45.4 million tonnes), mainly for soft wheat on recovery of EU production.

Prices: Compared to last month, cereal prices generally decreased (from -2.0% for milling wheat to -4.6% for maize). Italian durum wheat price held steady.

Compared to last year, representative feed wheat prices are higher (+7.3%), feed barley prices are aligned, and other cereal prices are lower (from -5.1% for durum wheat to -9.1% for milling wheat).

Imports from Ukraine: 0.7 million tonnes of cereals were imported from Ukraine in May (-18% compared to April). **Maize** represents **81%** of these imports.

Imports to **Spain** represent **68%** of the total EU **wheat imports** from Ukraine during the first eleven months of 2024/25 marketing year. Imports of **maize** decreased to 0.5 million tonnes in May (-15% compared to April). Spain imported the highest share of maize (27%) during ongoing marketing year. It is followed by the Netherlands with 25%. Italy also imported large quantities of Ukrainian maize. Imports of **barley** almost stopped in May (only 2 200 tonnes). Spanish imports represent 60% of the 2024/25 barley imports

3.3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE OILSEED AND PROTEIN MARKET SITUATION

The IGC's outlook for global **soya bean production** remains unchanged compared to last month, at 428.4 million tonnes - a year-on-year increase of 1%, primarily attributed to anticipated expansion in cultivated area across South America. **Total consumption** is expected to rise by 18 million tonnes (+4% year-on-year) to 429.0 million tonnes, reflecting growing demand for soya bean co-products in Asia and the Americas. **Stock**

levels are anticipated to reach 83.4 million tonnes, slightly below last year's figure, due to a decline among major exporters. Despite increased shipments to Asia and Africa, total **trade** is only marginally higher than the previous year at 183.2 million tonnes, as trimmed US exports – linked to stronger domestic demand from the biofuel sector – offset gains elsewhere.

Rapeseed production is projected to reach 87.5 million tonnes, 1% above 2024/25. Higher EU output is expected to offset smaller harvests in North America and Oceania. **Total consumption** is forecast to edge slightly higher to 88.7 million tonnes, driven by modest gains in the EU. **Ending stocks** are anticipated to decline to 6.3 million tonnes (-17% year-on-year), largely due to reduced reserves in China. **Global trade** is set to fall to a four-year low of 16.8 million tonnes (-11% year-on-year), reflecting improved EU production and a corresponding drop in import demand.

Amid adverse weather conditions in the last weeks, **sunflower seed production** is revised downwards by 0.6 million tonnes month-on-month. However, total production is expected to recover by 9% this season, to 56.6 million tonnes. Global **consumption** is projected to rebound to 56.4 million tonnes (+7% year-on-year), supported by increased processing activity in the US and the Black Sea Region. **Trade** is forecast at 2.8 million tonnes (+5% year-on-year), driven by demand from the EU and Near East Asia.

Following strong gains in the previous month, **soya bean prices** remained relatively stable in July, with modest month-on-month declines in Argentina and US (both down 1%). FOB quotations in Brazil held steady at USD 430 per tonne, thereby widening the premium over more competitively priced offers from Argentina (USD 405 per tonne) and the US (USD 418 per tonne).

Rapeseed prices showed an average global month-on-month decline of 2% supported by favourable weather conditions in key producing regions and robust Australian exports to Asia. In Canada, prices fell by 6% to USD 541 per tonne, while in the EU they dropped by 3% to USD 551 per tonne. In Australia, prices declined by 2% reaching USD 528 per tonne.

Sunflower seed prices edged down slightly between June and July. Recent rainfall across the EU is expected to improve crop conditions. **EU prices** declined by 1% to USD 645 per tonne, reflecting both the seasonal slowdown in market activity and improved supply prospects. Ukrainian prices are pegged at USD 485 per tonne (-2% month-on-month). However, prices remained 27% higher year-on-year, driven by sustained demand and reduced output in the previous season.

For the marketing year 2025/26, the **EU oilseed area** increased by 2% month-on-month to 11.7 million hectares, with the increase in sunflower seed and soya bean area generally offsetting the drop in rapeseed. **Rapeseed** area declined to 5.8 million hectares, primarily due to a decrease in France, Poland, and Romania. **Sunflower seed** increased by 0.26 million hectares to 4.8 million hectares, owing to increased plantings in Bulgaria, France, Hungary, and Romania.

This month, total **EU oilseed production** for the 2025/26 season is estimated at 30.6 million tonnes. A decline in **rapeseed output** in France, Hungary, Poland and

Romania, along with reduced **sunflower seed** production in Bulgaria, Spain, and Romania, contributed to a 2% month-on-month decrease. **Soya bean** production is expected to fall slightly this month. However, overall production increased by 9.3% year-on-year, reflecting a broader recovery across the EU for the current marketing year.

For the **2025/26** season, the EU **protein crops area** is revised upwards this month to 1.7 million hectares, primarily due to an increase in the cultivation of field peas in Spain, Lithuania and Latvia, and broad beans in France. The area under field peas is now expected to reach 1.0 million hectares (-2.9% year-on-year).

Total **production** raised by 0.36 million tonnes this month to 4.1 million tonnes, driven by higher field peas production in Spain, Lithuania and Latvia, as well as increased broad bean production in France and Poland.

In July, changes to the 2024/25 **oilseed** balance focus on import estimates. Rapeseed imports are adjusted upwards by 0.5 million tonnes, and soya bean imports by 0.2 million tonnes, bringing total **oilseed imports** to 22.6 million tonnes (+16% year-on-year). Soya bean imports are now estimated at 14.5 million tonnes. **EU oilseed meal** production for 2024/25 is slightly increased to 29.0 million tonnes, reflecting higher output of both rapeseed meal and soya bean meal. **Imports** of oilseed meals rose to 22.5 million tonnes, following a further increase of 0.7 million tonnes in soya bean meal imports, which now stands at 19.4 million tonnes. **Vegetable oil** production is revised up to 15.6 million tonnes, reflecting higher levels of rapeseed processing this month. Total vegetable oil **exports** are adjusted downwards to 2.3 million tonnes, due to reduced sunflower seed oil exports (-0.15 million tonnes).

For the **2025/26** season, the EU oilseed outlook remains broadly stable. Total **oilseed imports** are projected at 21.0 million tonnes, including 5.8 million tonnes of rapeseed (-22% year-on-year). **Oilseed meal production** is forecast at 29.5 million tonnes, marking a 1.7% increase year-on-year. **Imports** remain unchanged at 19.8 million tonnes, while consumption is 5.7% lower than in the previous season, at 47.0 million tonnes. **Vegetable oil output** is revised down at 16.1 million tonnes, an increase of 3.3% year-on-year, supported by a recovery in domestic sunflower and rapeseed output.

3.4. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE RICE MARKET SITUATION

International rice prices, especially in Asia, were holding their low levels, and currency fluctuations might alter the picture in the near future. Indian selling has not subsided yet but in Africa the price decline of cheap Indian rice has already started to reverse. Mitsui, a huge global trading group from Japan, has acquired a substantial (30%) minority share in Italy's largest rice food group Euricom.

Total EU rice imports are up 16% for the first ten months of the marketing year compared to last year. The total number for this year comes in at 1,4 million tonnes milled equivalent. Imports of milled rice have been steadily increasing over the years, and it is now 300000 tonnes higher than 5 years ago. Imports of small packages have been less strong last month than the months before. **EBA rice imports** have been up 16%

over the same period of last year, which is more than last month's 12%. The number comes in at close to 445 000 tonnes and it shows that Cambodia presence on the EU rice market became even stronger.

Apparently, **Cambodia will graduate out of LDC status** in December 2029, which means the EBA preferences will be lost as of that point.

EU paddy prices through the 13th of July have not moved much, compared to last month. Reportedly, there is very little interest in buying the old stock, and traders are waiting for the new crop to enter the market, which is in October.

4. OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

4.1. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES MARKET SITUATION

For current marketing year 2024/25, **world production** is estimated at around 3.5 million tonnes, 17% above the five-year average, after two consecutive marketing years below average, as production has recovered both in the EU and outside the EU.

EU olive oil production for marketing year 2024/25 is forecast at around 2.1 million tonnes (36% higher compared to previous marketing year, and 15% above the five-year average), whilst production outside the EU is also expected to increase by around 36% (y-o-y) to 1.4 million tonnes. The expected EU production recovery in the current harvest has eased significantly the pressure on the Spanish and Greek markets, moving prices down from record highs registered in January 2024. For marketing year 2024/25, production is forecast to recover in Spain, Portugal, and Greece (by 66%, 10% and 30% respectively), as these Member States have been in an "on-year". In Italy, production is forecast to decrease by 24% reaching 248 000 tonnes, as olive groves should enter in an "off-year", particularly in the southern regions. EU ending stocks for the current marketing year should be back to average at around 445 000 tonnes. Looking forward, hot spells in the south of the EU during June and the first half of July are expected to hamper next harvest's olive yields, lowering expectations derived from optimal rainfall in the winter and spring in the Iberian Peninsula.

In the first eight months of marketing year 2024/25, **EU imports of olive oil** from third countries reached around 135 000 tonnes, decreasing by 7% compared to the same period of previous marketing year 2023/24, although 5% below the five-year average. Imports from Tunisia, representing 80% of total EU imports of olive oil, increased by 33% (y-o-y), partly compensating from lower imports from all the other main trade partners.

EU exports to third countries in the first eight months of marketing year 2024/25 reached around 485 000 tonnes, increasing by 19% compared to previous marketing year 2023/24, although still 2% below the five-year average. Exports to the US accelerated strongly in the last months, as operators are anticipating tariffs on EU olive oil in short run. For the current marketing year 2024/25, EU exports are forecast to increase by 25% (y-o-y) reaching around 760 000 tonnes, whilst imports should also increase by around 7% to around 220 000 tonnes.

On **prices**, market pressure has significantly eased in Spain and Greece, on the back on the production recovery in the EU. Since records highs in January 2024 (EVOO at around EUR 9.00 per kg), prices have steadily decreased in the last months, particularly

in Spain and Greece. Olive oil (EVOO) prices ranged between EUR 3.68 per kg in Spain (-21.1% 5y average) and EUR 3.61 per kg in Greece (-20.7% 5y average) in the second week of July 2025. On the other hand, EVOO prices in Italy remain broadly stable at record high levels, as low production prospects in Italy keep the pressure high (EUR 9.61 per kg in the second week of July). At retail level, prices have slightly decreased, as a result of negative annual inflation of olive oil; consumer price of olive oil in the EU reached -27.5% in June 2025, compared to a year ago.

Finally, **EU production of table olives** is estimated to increase sharply by 39% (y-o-y) to almost 860 000 tonnes in marketing year 2024/25; production is forecast to recover both in Spain and in Greece, by around 32% and 117% respectively (to around 530 000 tonnes and 240 000 tonnes respectively). EU trade balance increased by 37% (y-o-y) in the first three quarters of marketing year 2024/25; imports decreased by 29%, to around 117 000 tonnes, whilst exports increased slightly by around 2% in the same period, reaching 316 000 tonnes.

ES informed that marketed olive oil in Spain (domestic and external) could reach 1.5 million tonnes and considered that ending stocks could be lower than the ones estimated at 445 000 tonnes for 2024/25. ES requested the publication of the monthly levels of stocks, broken down by Member State. Finally, in anticipation of a potential above-average upcoming harvest, ES informed that a public consultation on a Draft Order laying down the marketing standard for olive oil for the marketing year 2025/26 in application of Royal Decree 84/2021 laying down the basic standards for the application of Article 167a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 was launched on 18 July.

4.2 DISCUSSION ON IMPLEMENTING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL OLIVE COUNCIL TRADE STANDARD

The International Olive Oil Council has recently approved an amendment of the IOC Trade Standard for olive oil and olive-pomace oil, lowering the sterol limit for monovarietal olive oils from either the Koroneiki or Nocellara del Belice varieties. The Commission has now to include this amendment in EU legislation and proposed that such oils are labelled, traced and checked. This prompted disagreement by some experts from Member States. Input is requested from Member States experts by 10 September to facilitate further discussions.

5. MARKET TRANSPARENCY

For the last reporting period (May 2025) information on cereals stocks was provided by 21 MS (+2 MS), for oilseeds stocks by 18 MS (-1 MS), and for oilseeds products stocks by 20 MS.

Delegates were also informed about the bilateral exchanges ongoing on the corrections of suspicious data detected in the notifications submitted for the past months. Some corrections were already performed but some are still pending clarifications from Member States authorities.

Presentation also included available data on stock of main cereals as of May for the last two marketing years in the major producing Member States.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

5. Next steps

6. Next meeting

7. List of participants

All Member States are present, except Malta.