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Directorate G. Markets and Observatories
G.4. Arable crops and olive oil

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MINUTES

Meeting of the Expert Group for agricultural markets, in particular concerning aspects falling under the single CMO regulation –

SUBGROUP OLIVE OIL CHEMIST

Date: 12 and 13 September 2017

Chair: M. Miguel Garcia Navarro (Deputy Head of unit - DG AGRI – Unit G.4)

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

Minutes of the meeting of 31 January 2017 were approved.

II. Nature of the meeting

Non-public meeting.

III. List of points discussed

1. Adoption of the Agenda.

Two points are added to the proposed Agenda: a point related to the replacement of hazardous solvents as well as a point on the explanatory notices that have to be sent to World Customs' Organisation (WCO) by the end of September (IOC responsible).

2. Information and exchange of views on the Knowledge Centre for Food Authenticity

M. Franz Ulberth (JRC Geel) presented the Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud that should be launched by the end of 2017, with the objective to gather existing knowledge on food fraud and make it available to the Commission services.

Some slides presenting figures on fraud (in particular in the olive oil sector) were presented to the group and the importance to understand how complex is the food chain in preventing fraud was highlighted.

M. Matthäus mentioned that to improve the Knowledge Management in the field, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture has set up a National Reference Centre for the Authenticity and Integrity of the Food Chain at the Max Rubner

Institute (MRI). M. Ulberth said he was in contact with this Institute with a view to define future cooperation.

M. Izquierdo stressed out the importance of a good system of sanctions that would dissuade fraudulent practices to occur (risk greater than opportunity to defraud). M. Ulberth agreed on the principle that sanctions are a key element in combatting fraud, but reminded that law enforcement is under the responsibility of the Member States, and not of the Commission, which is not competent in defining the sanctions regarding law infringements ("Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91 is referring to "effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties"). However, he reported that specialised enforcement agencies have been created in some Member States, such as IT and DK.

D. García-González explained the on-going work done within the OLEUM research project to gather know-how and set-up new or improve existing methods to better guarantee the authenticity of olive oil. The importance of a performant cooperation of all entities involved in combating fraud, be it at national or at local level, is essential.

As regards research projects, M. Ulberth expressed his concerns on the potential slowdown of related networks once the funding is over, and reported to have already engaged a constructive dialogue with Food Integrity Project to ensure that knowledge gathered throughout the project would not be lost afterwards.

3. Information and exchange of views on the eWG on the revision of the CODEX standard for olive oil and olive pomace oil (CODEX STAN 33-1981)

M. Izquierdo informed the group on the state of play of the work. An electronic working group has been created (presidency: ES; co-presidents: ARG and CAN). A dedicated platform has been set up and members are invited to join this platform. M. Izquierdo mentioned his surprise regarding the non-registration to the group of some IOC members, such as Tunisia and Uruguay, or of EU Member States (such as Greece and Portugal). He also announced the next steps ahead (functioning of the group will be explained, calendar for the work ahead as well as a comparison table of the different existing standards will be circulated to the eWG). Regarding the order of the revision, one suggestion is to follow the order of the standard, another one could be to start the revision by the points where a consensus is easy to find and keep more challenging points for later.

D. García-González referred to an Article recently published (GRASAS Y ACEITES 68 (3) / July–September 2017, e210 / ISSN-L: 0017-3495 / doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3989/gya.0446171>) on the differences between trade standards inside and outside Europe. He invited to launch a debate on parameters that are absent in some standards and present in others (such as pyropheophytins).

M. Izquierdo mentioned that as regards pyropheophytins, there is not available data to fix proper limits and reminded that CODEX standard's objective was to facilitate trade; any addition of parameters should be considered having that in mind.

Conclusions: *The chair invited M. Izquierdo to see with CODEX secretariat whether an extension of the deadline for registering to the eWG could be*

considered. It was reminded that the EU had an exclusive competency for CODEX issues. Of course, any EU position in respect of the revision of the CODEX standard will be first discussed with all Member States. The Chair informed the experts of the GREX OO CHEM that they would be involved in the process and consulted on a regular basis. IOC being an observer in this eWG, members of the IOC will have to express their positions individually but IOC should of course contribute in finding consensus between its members.

4. Information and exchange of views on the ongoing work in the IOC (chemistry and sensory experts) and points to be treated in the IOC chemistry experts' meeting of 25 and 26 September 2017

Ms. Fernandez, observer representing IOC, introduced each point.

4.1. Results of collaborative tests and studies scheduled in 2017

4.1.1. Simplified method for the determination of stigmastadienes

M. Faberi presented the results of the collaborative study. Differences between the current method of the IOC (COI/T20/Doc rev2 2001), the 2014 simplified method and the 2016 simplified method were explained.

Purpose of the 2016 simplified method is not to replace the current official method of the IOC, which is more precise (data are more dispersed with the simplified method but main values correspond to the ones obtained with the IOC method). The aim is to provide to laboratories a simplified method, more rapid and less costly (smaller quantities of solvents); it could be used for first screening.

Mrs Lacoste mentioned that ITERG took part in the collaborative test. She said it was necessary to include the realisation of a solvent blank in the protocol.

M. Izquierdo was of the opinion that this simplified method should continue to be used, so as to improve its reproducibility. However, for official controls, current method has to continue being used.

As regards the status of that simplified method, Mr. Faberi suggested to do the same as for alkylesters and waxes: provisional method, with a clear indication of its scope and weaknesses. In that respect, Mr. Garcia Gonzales, joined by M. Faberi, invited the IOC to elaborate a clear "typography" of the different methods mentioned on its website (that would mention, in particular, why different methods can coexist to determine a same parameter, and make a clear distinction between official methods, provisional ones, quality-related or authenticity-related).

Mr. Conte mentioned that the samples used for the collaborative study did not allow comparing the simplified method with the official method.

Mrs Lacoste and Mr. García-González suggested to run an inter-comparative test (use both methods in parallel on same samples)

Conclusions: *this simplified method is not meant to replace the official method for the determination of the stigmastadienes. The dispersion of the results is*

greater which questions the effectiveness of the simplified method in case of samples of olive oil close to the limits. However, given that this method is more rapid and cheaper, work should continue with a view to improve its reproducibility. The IOC was invited to consider organising an inter-comparative study in 2018, depending on the availability of budgetary and human resources. As regards the status that should be given to this simplified method, the Chair asked the IOC to evaluate the opportunity to have that simplified method compared to the risks.

4.1.2. Quantification of Erythrodiol and Uvaol – TLC, HPLC

– New calculation of uvaol & erythrodiol

The objective to replace the use of a percentage of uvaol + erythrodiol by an absolute figure in mg/kg is meant to increase the detection of possible fraud (refining of the olive oil decreases the percentage of U+E).

The Commission representative reported that invitations to send figures using the calculation proposed by the IOC for uvaol and erythrodiol had been sent in May 2017 to the different producing Member States. So far, Spain, France, Greece sent some figures. Croatia indicated to have difficulty in producing such information (as the sterols determination is not done in HR), but Mrs Lukic will consider whether it is feasible following some explanations given by M. Conte. Slovenia representatives indicated that data were about to be sent to DG AGRI.

Also, MM. Ollivier and Conte explained that data had to be given independently for uvaol and erythrodiol as the aim is to deduct uvaol in a next step.

Conclusions: *DG AGRI will remind Portugal and Italy to send data. It will ensure that data are given for each parameter independently and that the category is mentioned.*

– Method TLC, HPLC

Document referenced 3.b.2 of the IOC was discussed. Mrs Fernandez wanted to know whether the experts had some comments to make before its possible adoption.

M. Conte explained that two different methods (TLC, HPLC), providing equivalent results, could be used to separate the alcoholic compounds. In the document submitted, the HPLC option is added.

M. Izquierdo regretted some imprecisions in the HPLC option (cf. "between 5 and 10 min.", "between 11 and 25 min") and said Spain would continue using the TLC for official controls. He is joined by MM. Garcia Gonzales and Faberi on that point.

Mrs Roca pointed that although some aspects of the HPLC could be refined (as the establishment of the differences on retention time), the HPLC method is a valid method, actually used by the industry.

M. Conte said the two methods were equally reliable. The title and the scope should however be clarified.

Mrs Lacoste suggested having one method referred to as reference method in case of dispute and M. Faberi asked for more clarity regarding the "hierarchy" of the two different methods. M. Matthäus reported some difficulties in presenting both methods at the same level if TLC is presented as a method of reference.

M. Izquierdo suggested including in the document a paragraph on the calibration of the method, using TLC.

Conclusions: *the document proposed should be fine-tuned as regards its title, its scope, its structure and its drafting. Comments should be sent in writing to M. Moreda. If the two methods are proven to be equally reliable, there seems to be no difficulty to have two alternative methods. The Chair invited the IOC to reflect on the best way to present the two alternatives (One single method? Two separate methods; one official and one provisional?).*

4.1.3. Study on MRLs of pesticides

Deadline for the IOC members to reply to the questionnaire prepared by Dr Generalli is 15 September 2017. So far, the European Union is the only member to have sent its reply.

The objective of the questionnaire is to gather information on the different regulations concerning Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) and pesticides.

M. Faberi asked the Commission to verify its reply in respect processing coefficients, which seems to be erroneous.

Conclusions: *M. Faberi was invited to send in writing its comments regarding processing coefficients to DG AGRI. DG AGRI will then liaise with DG SANTE and provide a revised reply if need be.*

4.2. Ongoing studies

4.2.1. Method for the determination of methanol and ethanol in virgin olive oils

Mrs Fernandez explained that the IOC had not been informed on any development since the last meeting of the chemists in the IOC (Feb 2017). At the occasion of that meeting, a collaborative study had been envisaged and participants were designated. Their participation could be validated at the occasion of the next meeting of the chemists in the IOC, foreseen on 25-26 September 2017.

The Chair agrees on that.

Conclusion: *list of participants should be validated and work engaged.*

4.2.2. Update on Global method

The revised method proposed by M. Moreda is presented to the group of experts for consideration.

Discussions took place; regarding the scope, the last sentence was questioned by Slovenian representatives. The usefulness of the revised method was questioned

given that another method has to be used in case the sample is found to be not coherent. M. Faberi reminded that the mandate given to M. Moreda was to work on the title, the scope and the interpretation of results.

M. Izquierdo and Mrs Lacoste regretted that the detection of hazelnut oil is no longer specified in the scope and that the revision of the method implied that there is official method left for detecting hazelnut oil. M. Izquierdo regretted the relativity of the results provided by the method (coherence, incoherence), which goes against the need for precise results in official controls.

Mrs. Roca, D. García-González and M. Faberi reminded that the method was initially validated to detect hazelnut oil. The revised method should specify in the scope the detection of hazelnut oil. The validation would be required for the detection of other anomalies.

Mrs Fernandez indicated that this method had to be used to get an indication, an orientation. She urged the experts to work on the revised method submitted by M. Moreda.

Conclusions: Intensive discussions on the revised method. The chair invited the experts to send their comments to M. Moreda, copy to DG AGRI, so that the "ex-global method" can be operational soon. Last sentence of the scope could make reference to possible detection of hazelnut oil, as this was validated in the past. Then, work should be pursued to possibly extend the indication of possible presence of other vegetable oils or bad practices, and IOC rules for validating new scope would have to be respected.

4.2.3. Evolution of the analytical characteristics and best before date

Mrs Fernandez explained that the IOC had not been informed on any development since the last meeting of the chemists in the IOC (Feb 2017).

The Chair reminded the experts that the IOC had the intention to launch an eWG with a view to elaborate guidelines on that subject.

Point added to the Agenda – Replacement of hazardous solvents

M. Ollivier presented the results of the collaborative studies of equivalence in the employment of isooctane in place of n-hexane in the parameters: waxes, ethyl esters, stigmastadiene 2-glyceryl, monopalmitate, ECN-42 difference, at three levels of trials.

As it is already the case in ISO, it is proposed to add in the methods for each one of the above-mentioned parameters a footnote indicating that "n-hexane can be replaced by iso-octane".

Conclusions: taking into account the risk in manipulating hazardous solvents, the GREX OO CHEM agrees on the proposition. The Chair underlined that the GREX is aware that this is not done in line with ISO requirements which require 5 levels of trials for each parameter.

4.2.4. Update on recent studies on the relationship between volatile compounds and sensory defects

D. García-González reported the group on advancements made in the framework of on-going studies in particular in Spain, and in the framework of OLEUM.

As regards on-going study in Spain, M. Izquierdo explained that so far, good results had been obtained. In the coming months, focus will be on the improvement of the algorithms, on samples used, on implementation trials in different companies.

The Chair asked whether supporting documentation was available.

As regards OLEUM, D. García-González explained the on-going work on the samples, as well as on the identification of the different markers involved in defects.

4.3. Varietal studies

4.3.1. Application of decision trees to $\Delta 7$ stigmastenol in lampante virgin olive oils and refined olive oils

The request to have decision trees for lampante (LOO) and refined (ROO) olive oils was made by several IOC members (Turkey, Tunisia, Syria, Palestine) which encountered some problems with $\Delta 7$ stigmatenol.

He Chair invited the experts to be proportionate when considering changing the standard. In particular, should the problem be limited, the opportunity to change the standard should be questioned.

M. Izquierdo questioned the idea to apply decision-tree to $\Delta 7$ stigmastenol ROO.

M. Faberi agreed with the Chair, especially in respect of LOO. Problems represent only a small amount of LOO and those LOO are being sold at a lower value. M. Faberi feared that any relaxation of the standard would imply a relaxation in the controls.

Conclusions: *IOC is invited to evaluate the extent of the problems to be solved before deciding on the opportunity to implement decision-trees for $\Delta 7$ stigmatenol in LOO and ROO.*

4.4. Miscellaneous information

4.4.1. Results of eWG for the revision of COI/T.20/Doc. no 42-2/Rev.1. - Precision data of the methods

Numerous inconsistencies and errors were reported by some experts. They should be corrected. Representatives from Slovenia asked to include the precision data for all the sterols. Ms Lacoste will revise the documents circulated, and add the data on sterols from the ring test on CCM and HPLC.

Ms Lacoste invited the IOC to put in place an excel document where all precision data for each method could be stored.

4.4.2. Determination of composition of triacylglycerols and composition and content of diacylglycerols by capillary gas chromatography COI/T.20 Doc. N. 32 2013 ISO CD 21846:2016

Mrs Fernandez explained that the IOC did not receive any documentation in that respect and informed that a state of play will be made in the chemists group of the IOC.

4.4.3. Presentation of a revised version of method IOC / T20 / Doc. No. 28 for discussion

Mrs Fernandez presented the state of play. Detailed information will be given in the IOC chemists' experts group.

4.4.4. Improved method for TAGs analysis in olive oils: a comparison between current method (DeltaECN42) and "UHPLC + CAD"

M. Conte explained the state-of-play.

4.4.5. Assistance and training of recognised laboratories or laboratories applying for IOC recognition

Mrs Fernandez indicated that 7-8 experts from different IOC Members accepted to assist and train laboratories.

4.4.6. Determination of MOSH – MOAH

Mrs Lacoste explained that the limit for the determination of mineral hydrocarbons (MOSH and MOAH) in vegetable oils was fixed at 10 mg/kg by EN 16995 standard that was published in July 2017. Determining a lower limit is not possible due to reproducibility reasons.

This issue is important for the whole sector. NGO are exercising pressure on retail companies and retail companies are exercising pressure on producers, forcing them to respect limits below 10 mg/kg.

Mrs Fernandez showed concern as the issue is growing. She will discuss the point with the experts of the IOC experts group on "contaminants". M. Izquierdo welcomed this idea and said that it is important to reactivate the work of this group.

4.4.7. Determination of 3MCPD

M. Matthäus informed the GREX of the existence of a working group in the Netherlands which worked on 3MCPD.

Mrs Roca indicated that lot of data would have to be collected before limits can be established. She explained that the three methods of the AOCS are extensive and laborious. She offers to ISO and COI a new method developed by the Mass Spectroscopy Service at the Instituto de la Grasa, more rapid and simple. The method is actually requested by industries.

Mrs Lacoste explained that three methods are used by laboratories since several years. In her opinion, there is no need to start the validation for a new method. M. Matthäus agreed.

It was explained that 3MCPD determination might not be relevant to detect soft deodorisation process, because it appears in olive oil when exposed to higher temperatures for a significant period (to be verified, in the framework of the OLEUM project).

The IOC will make a point of information in the chemists group. DG AGRI is not in a position to comment work on contaminants.

~~5. Exchange of views on the **review and update of Annex 1b to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91** (Decision tree for verifying whether and olive oil sample is consistent with the category declared)~~

Given that Mrs Lacoste does not have enough time available to perform this work, DG AGRI proposed to work on the review and the update of the Annex 1b. A draft revised Annex will be circulated to the experts as soon as possible.

6. Determination of **halogenated solvents** in olive oil

M. Denis Ollivier presented his work in that respect. He explained that perchloroethylene was used by mills in the 1990's as solvent to evaluate, in samples, the olive oil yield from the olives. Perchloroethylene is no longer used for that purpose, but is sometimes used for intercomparison tests of the IOC. He also reported that the detector used in the method for determining halogenated solvents was almost no longer used by laboratories.

A questionnaire was circulated to different countries and results of this survey are reported in the document circulated prior to the GREX OO CHEM. In light of those results, M. Ollivier proposed to delete Article 7 of R. (EEC) No 2568/91 and include the limit values (0.01 mg/kg for each halogenated solvent and 0.02 mg/kg for the sum of all halogenated solvent) in Annex XI to R. (EEC) No 2568/91, which would remain.

The Chair explained that methods in Annex to the Regulation had to be provided because of limits established by the Regulation, and that it seemed hardly feasible to maintain an Annex with no legal requirement associated. However, the method of determination of the halogenated solvents could be maintained in the methods of the IOC.

M. Faberi expressed that he was in favour of keeping those limits but suggested to include them in R. (EC) 1881/2006 on contaminants. He added that that Regulation did not provide methods (up to the laboratories to choose the method to use).

Mrs Lacoste warned the group on the potential difficulty to have them included in the Regulation on contaminants, as the risk for health will have to be proven.

M. Faberi reported that a work was being done in the CODEX to transfer limits on halogenated solvents from the general standard to the standard on contaminants.

Conclusions: *The Chair concluded that DG AGRI would contact DG SANTE in charge of R. (EC) No 1881/2006 and see how to include those limits in that Regulation. The on-going work in the CODEX will be mentioned. If it is feasible, the method for the determination of halogenated solvents would then be deleted from R. (EEC) No 2568/91(as well as Article 7) and kept as an IOC method.*

7. Exchange of views on the ongoing work on a protocol for an IOC arbitration system

M. Ollivier presented the work achieved by the eWG (chaired by M. Cobo).

Ms. Fernandez explained the context for this work and explained that the request had been made by some operators.

M. Izquierdo asked the IOC to provide the necessary justification for launching a work on that issue: statistics on disagreements between panel tests, on the operators asking for such system...

The Chair agreed on the idea to consider a protocol of counter-assessments at international level, similar to the system already in place in the EU. However, he questioned the pertinence for assigning this role of arbitration to the executive secretariat of the IOC. This protocol should only be a recommendation when disputes among operators exist.

M. Izquierdo also questioned the relevance of the IOC in that respect and asked for clarification of the scope of that arbitration system; would it apply to official controls, for which countries have their own rules already in force?

M. Faberi questioned the pertinence of having such protocol in the standard and mentioned that it should be more pertinent to have it in the list of methods rather than in the standard.

D. García-González insisted on the need to consult widely all parties involved, beyond the participants of the eWG. He also raised some questions on how to ensure traceability in case not enough samples were taken by Authorities and a new sample had to be taken from the same batch, on anonymity of the samples, on the risk for a third panel test to have difficulties to establish the classification for oils that are close to the limits. He explained that a clear strategy should be established upfront, in terms of exigence required from the panel test (increased SR?).

Mrs Gallina Toschi shared some of those interrogations, in particular when referred to a representative amount of sample required, that absolutely needs to be fully supplied and anonymized from the beginning; she also underlined that an arbitration should not be an integration at the Panel Test method, in terms of method specifications, but it has a sense if works as an agreed, simple and clear arbitration procedure for settling disputes.

M. Izquierdo also mentioned that setting-up an arbitration system will not be an answer to the discontentment with the sensory analysis and the problem of defiance in the panel tests.

Conclusions: *The Chair regretted that no preliminary discussion took place in the IOC before the work was launched in the chemists group. He therefore invited the IOC to clarify the scope, define the objectives and provide background information on the parties interested in having such system in place. He mentioned that official controls should not be in the scope of such system, each country having its own system in place. If there is a strong demand from the operators to have such system, guidelines could perhaps be considered instead of having it in the standard, which would make it de facto compulsory for all members. The Chair asked whether more experts from the GREX OO CHEM could be included in the eWG. M. Ollivier agreed on reworking on the system proposed, with a view to re-discuss it at the occasion of the sensory meeting of the IOC (mid-October).*

8. Information and exchange of views on the communications by Member States of the results of controls for 2016

DG AGRI presented the preliminary results of conformity checks performed in 2016, as notified by the Member States to the Commission. A significant increase in the number of complete category checks (ie. both analytical check and organoleptic analysis performed on the sample) is to be noted. 4 Member States did not yet notify their results of controls.

9. Information and exchange of views on the state of play of the OLEUM research project

Mrs Tullia Gallina Toschi presented the achievements in the different work packages of the research project, after its first year of existence. Next steps were also presented to the experts.

Some experts deplored the reference in that project to the "freshness" of an olive oil. Mrs Gallina Toschi explained that this concept should not be confused and is completely different from the "best before". The work in that respect is being done with a view to investigate the freshness of an olive oil, considering the freshness of a food as its quality at the "time zero". The concept of freshness is present in OLEUM because 1) is something of interest and in the language of the consumers and need to be assessed and possibly defined; 2) because OLEUM is a research project and not everything that is being investigated has to become standard or a norm.

10. Proposals for priorities and future work on olive oil chemistry.

No particular point was raised, attention should be paid on advancements on on-going work.

Work on Annexe Ib will be achieved by DG AGRI services and proposed to the experts. Mrs. Lacoste will send what she has already been doing in that respect.

11. Any other business:

- 11.1. **Information and exchange of views on the health claim related to olive oil (Regulation (EU) No 432/2012) - With the participation of Ms. Sabine Pelsser and M. Athanasios Raikos from DG SANTE**

M. Conte introduced the point and explained the concerns of the GREX OO CHEM participants as regards:

- the inconsistency of the claim itself for olive oil;*
- the uncertainty as regards the phenolic compounds to be determined;*
- the uncertainty as regards the method to be used for determining the polyphenols.*

Until now, the IOC method which is the only official one is for the determination of the total content in polyphenols.

Mrs. Pelsser explained that DG SANTE was in charge of R. (EU) 432/2012 and that this Regulation had been established following discussions with all Member States. In particular, this regulation is discussed in a dedicated working group gathering Member States' representatives. She also explained that the implementation of this Regulation is under the responsibility of the Member States. Therefore, should a need for harmonisation be brought to the attention of the group by one or several Member States, it would have to be discussed. Until now, DG SANTE has not been solicited from any Member State regarding the health claim for olive oil.

The representatives of the Member States as well as experts in their own capacity reported that the health claim for olive oil was hardly used at Member State's level, due to the above-mentioned issues. The uncertainty inherent to the claim itself makes it risky to use.

D. García-González mentioned that a part of the OLEUM research project will be devoted to that health claim.

Mrs Fernandez said the IOC would be ready to revise the method for the determination of polyphenols should any development be made regarding the health claim for olive oil.

Conclusions: *it was recommended to the experts to bring to the attention of their counterparts dealing with health-related issues the need for clarification and harmonisation in respect of the health claim for OO. Also, it was suggested to associate the experts of the GREX OO CHEM to any discussion in relation to that topic in the premises of DG SANTE. M. Faberi was asked to introduce that point to Italian competent authorities and provide some feedback to the group regarding any follow-up.*

11.2. Information and exchange of views on the labelling of nutrition declarations related to olive oil (Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011) - With the participation of Ms. Sabine Pelsser and M. Athanasios Raikos from DG SANTE

M. Izquierdo introduced the discussion on nutrition declarations for olive oil. In particular, he expressed the experts' concern about considering the EVOO as a processed product. Although the olive is altered by the production of olive oil, the olive oil itself does not undergo any transformation. He reported the great discontent of the producers of EVOO and deplored that the obligation to label the nutrition properties for EVOO was benefitting to the industries.

M. Faberi also deplored that there was an uncertainty from a legal point of view: are those nutrition declarations to be checked in the framework of conformity checks for olive oil (checks on the labelling)?

In respect of the labelling of fatty acids, Mrs Lacoste said that it did not reflect properly the content in triglycerides in the bottle of olive oil, as glycerol is not measured

M. Faberi and D. García-González mentioned that due to the great range of different values of the characteristics of EVOO (due to variety, production aspects, temperature...), the use of average values for nutrition declarations was going against the reality of EVOO.

The Chair took note of diverging interests as regards those nutrition declarations, as well as existing weaknesses in terms of controlling those declarations.

Mrs Pelsser explained that a working group on labelling issues (R. (UE) No 1169/2011) was in place in DG SANTE, gathering all Member States. Considering olive oil as a processed product was a consensus interpretation agreed between all Member States. She however invited the experts to liaise with their counterparts at Member State's level to report any issue in this respect to the working group. Also, she announced that a Q&A document would soon be published with interpretations provided in respect of the labelling and said that a guidance document on tolerance margins for nutritional values was available on their website (2012).

Conclusions: *The Chair summarised that considering EVOO as a processed product was a question of interpretation and that therefore, some marge of manoeuvre existed if a new consensus is reached among competent authorities from Member States..*

IV. Next steps

See above-mentioned conclusions for each point of the Agenda.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting of the experts' group will take place in the first quarter of 2018. The exact date will be communicated as soon as possible to the experts, depending of the venue of the chemists' expert group in the IOC.

VI. List of participants

See enclosed Annex.

< e-signed >
Miguel GARCIA NAVARRO

List of participants– Minutes

Expert group for
SUBGROUP OLIVE OIL CHEMIST

12-13 SEPTEMBER 2017

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