

## PRESS RELEASE

### SPANISH BLACK OLIVE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. DROP 42.4% IN THE FIRST QUARTER

- **ASEMESA asks for olives to be defended with the same forcefulness as steel and aluminum.**
- **The United States Department of Commerce will issue the final determinations in the Antidumping and Countervailing investigations on June 11, and the International Trade Commission will do so in the investigation into the supposed injury to the Californian industry on June 24.**

**Seville, May 21 2018. Spanish exports of ripe olives to the U.S. have dropped by 42.4% in the first quarter of the year, compared to the same period last year, decreasing from 6.9 million kilos to 4.0 million kilos, according to information from the U.S. Customs Department.**

Compared with this drop in Spanish exports, exports from other countries to the U.S. have increased by 16.3%, rising from 7.0 million kilos to 8.3 million kilos, particularly noteworthy being the growth from countries such as Morocco, which exported 3.0 million kilos (+33%), Egypt with 21.2 million kilos (+50%) and Turkey with 0.4 million kilos (+82.3%).

**Spain's decline is particularly worrying** because the 17.13% anti/dumping tariff didn't take effect until January 28 and, furthermore, many annual contracts were still in force with expiration dates in the months following this implementation. **This means that the 42.4% figure was cushioned by these reasons, a further decrease being expected in coming months.**

Faced with this decrease, along with the increase by other competitor countries, **Antonio de Mora, Secretary General, "has reiterated his concern and asked all Administrations, and particularly the European Commission, on behalf of ASEMESA, to defend the industry politically with the same forcefulness it has used in the case of steel and aluminum, since a technical defense may not be enough, remembering that the CAP (EU Common Agricultural Policy) structure of farm subsidies is at stake".**

ASEMESA has reiterated that the two U.S. Government organizations in charge of the investigations will issue their final determinations: **the Department of Commerce on June 11, for the Antidumping and Countervailing investigations, and the International Trade Commission on July 24, for the investigation into the supposed damage to the Californian industry.**



ASEMESA (The Spanish Association of Table Olive Exporters and Producers) has been representing the industry for over 90 years, being dedicated to the production, marketing and export of Spanish table olives.

The Association's main objective is to defend the interests of the table olive industry, as well as interceding with national and international administrations and agricultural organizations. At present it also plays an important role within Interaceituna, the industry's inter-trade organization, promoting its creation in 2007.