

PRESS RELEASE

US RAISES TARIFFS ON BLACK OLIVES BY 60 PERCENT AND THREATENS CAP SUBSIDIES

- **The United States is to raise tariffs on black olives from Spain from 21.60% to 34.75%.**
- **It considers CAP subsidies to be incompatible with World Trade Organization regulations and has threatened other sectors that receive this aid.**
- **The Spanish Association of Table Olive Exporters and Producers (ASEMESA) has again called for the sector to be protected in the same way as steel.**
- **This tariff increase will lead to the loss of virtually the entire American olive market.**

Seville, June 12, 2018. The US Department of Commerce has adopted its final resolutions, thereby bringing its anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigation against Spain's black olive to a conclusion. Not only will the provisional tariffs imposed in November and January be retained, but they will be increased dramatically. Thus, as a consequence of the anti-subsidy investigation, an average tariff of 14.75% will be imposed, as opposed to the provisional 4.47% established in November. And as a result of the anti-dumping investigation, an average tariff of 20% will be imposed, as opposed to the provisional 17.13% established in January.

While the anti-dumping tariff will be applied as soon as it is officially published, the anti-subsidy tariff will not be imposed until a second administrative body, the ITC (International Trade Commission), adopts its final resolution at the end of July to determine whether or not black olive exports from Spain harm or threaten the US industry. If this agency concludes that no harm or threat exists, neither the anti-dumping tariff nor the anti-subsidy tariff will enter into force.

These tariff increases will lead to the loss of virtually the entire American black olive market for Spain. The US administration also continues to maintain that the CAP subsidies received by table olive farmers are incompatible with World Trade Organization regulations.

Responding to these resolutions, ASEMESA's Secretary General Antonio de Mora once again called for all administrations, especially the European Commission, to protect the sector with the same force being used for steel and aluminum, because the EU system of benefits for the agricultural sectors could also be in jeopardy. Such a precedent could cause any agricultural sector in any country that competes with EU products and receives CAP subsidies to call on its government to act in the way that the United States is acting.

ASEMESA

ASEMESA, the Spanish Association of Table Olive Exporters and Producers, has represented the industry that produces, sells and exports table olives in Spain for over 90 years.

The primary objective of the association is to defend the interests of the table olive industry and to represent the sector before national and international administrations and farmers' associations. Currently, it plays a key role in the inter-professional organization INTERACEITUNA and was one of the bodies behind its creation in 2007.