



Member of the European Parliament

Bruxelles, 21 April 2016

Mr. Phil Hogan
Commissioner for Agriculture
European Commission
BERL 08/337
Bruxelles

Dear Commissioner,

On 26 November 2016 we submitted a written question to the European Commission in order to ask the review of the limit values for fatty acids in olive oil laid down in the Annex I ('Olive oil characteristics') of Regulation (EU) 2015/1830. These limits, indeed, are not guarantee of quality and are having an adverse impact on the already precarious livelihoods of growers who have voluntarily signed up to a product quality certification scheme.

From internal sources of DG AGRI, we learnt informally that the Commission is currently updating the above mentioned regulation and that the chemical experts group already met together with the Commission and the representatives of Member States. It is our understanding that the necessary opinion of the International Olive Council (IOC) could be delivered by July 2016. Respecting this timeframe would allow the regulation to be reviewed by this fall, thus by the beginning of the annual olive campaign.

In this regard, even appreciating the effort of the Commission, I would like to reaffirm the legitimate worries of olive growers from Calabria and I wish that the final decision of the Commission will be taken on time, in order to guarantee the success of the olive picking of October 2016 and, consequently, alleviating the already dramatic conditions of Calabrian agriculture.

Furthermore, the swift scrutiny, by the Commission, of the application for the registration of the protected indication of origin "Olio di Calabria" (dossier n.: IT/PGI/0005/01314) would comply with the working program of the Juncker Cabinet and, at the same time, will give to Calabrian farmers concrete additional means to face the crisis, boosting the olive industry and creating new jobs.

Best regards

Rosa D'Amato

Laura Ferrara

Marco Zullo