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Press Release

COPA-COGECA SERIOUSLY REGRETS EU COMMISSION MOVE TO WITHDRAW NEW MEASURE TO BAN REFILLABLE BOTTLES OF OLIVE OIL DUE TO POLITICAL PRESSURE

Copa-Cogeca seriously regretted today the EU Commission move to succumb to political pressure and withdraw a much needed measure to improve the labelling and quality of EU olive oil - the measure was crucial for producer countries and to ensure a good quality product for consumers.

Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen warned “It is totally ludicrous that the Commission just withdraws this measure due to political pressure - it has been discussed for over a year and was supported by 15 Member States and passed through all the correct legal procedures. It was really a very simple measure that was positive for everyone. It represented a positive first step in the implementation of the EU Commission's Action Plan to improve the viability, quality and competitiveness of the EU Olive Oil Sector – a product which has many nutritional and health benefits”.

He continued “Perhaps it wasn’t explained well enough. But it was necessary to ban refillable bottles and the traditional aceiteras found on restaurant tables . Restaurants tend to use refillable bottles and refill them with olive oil (different categories) and other oils without informing consumers which is undesirable and not fair on consumers. Cost increases from the measure were negligible and no excuse to not go ahead with it. It is totally unacceptable that the Commission has done a complete U-turn and has succumbed to political pressure like this without any discussion with Member States and Industry. I urge the Commission to revise its decision. I would nevertheless like thank to Commissioner Ciolos and DGAGRI services for the work done and we will collaborate with the Commission to continue implementing the Olive oil Action Plan for the benefit of producers and consumers”.

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