

## **Spain: Almost everything ready to export peaches and plums to China**

The governments of Spain and China have signed a protocol that will allow the former to ship peaches and plums, as well as breeding birds, to China in the next campaign. As reported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in a statement, the Secretary General of Agriculture and Food, Carlos Cabanas, held a meeting with the Vice Minister of the General Administration for Quality Supervision and Quarantine in Beijing (AQSIQ), Zhang Qirong.

At the meeting, they reviewed the main negotiations currently underway for the opening of the Chinese market to Spanish products.

One of the goals set by Cabanas and Zhang was to open the Chinese market to Spanish peach and plum shipments.

It was found that the export requirements are practically agreed and that only some pending internal procedures on China's part are needed for the protocol's signing.

According to the Department, Cabanas has been offered a "commitment to have the authorisation for the shipment of peaches and plums ready for the next export season."

Agro-food trade between Spain and China has grown exponentially in recent years, with Spanish exports reaching a record 658 million Euro in 2014.

This trend has continued in 2015, when sales have grown by more than 30 percent in the first semester. China is the second largest recipient of Spanish exports outside the European Union, only behind the U.S.

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