

## The Spanish Government is closely monitoring the situation of olive oil prices to take the necessary measures

**The Spanish Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Luis Planas, said yesterday in Madrid that his Department, together with the Autonomous Communities producing olive oil, is following closely the situation of the market, which is characterized by a fall in prices, despite being a campaign with standard production, which also coincides with important production reductions in other Mediterranean countries.**

This was stated by the Spanish Minister after the Agricultural Policy Advisory Council was held, where he discussed with the councilors of the Autonomous Communities the points to be discussed at the EU Council of Agriculture Ministers next week in Brussels.

Based on this follow-up, the Minister advanced that all measures that are possible and necessary will be adopted and insisted on following this phenomenon very closely to locate where the cause of this situation is, which is "unfair for the producers who have done their job well".

In the same line, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of Andalusia, Carmen Crespo, insisted on being "very cautious" and said that "we don't understand why this is happening, because neither the capacity nor the production from competing countries such as Greece and Italy indicate lead us this way". "It is a question that is outside the normality of the olive market," she added.

Carmen Crespo said that on Friday the Andalusian Olive Council will meet in Jaén to carry out a "thorough analysis" of the causes with reports claimed to the Ministry and defended seeking an understanding with the sector before taking action. "We don't want to introduce any external element in the market that could cause difficulties," she said.



### Free fall of prices

Regarding the evolution of the prices of olive oil, the Spanish Union of Small Farmers (UPA) of Andalusia noted that the prices at origin in Spain continue in free fall and, in mid-February, registered a decrease of 30% on average, compared to the same period of the previous year, according to statistics from the weekly prices published on February 27 by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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