

International Olive Council
IOC Executive Director
Mr. Abdellatif Ghedira
Príncipe de vergara, 154
ES-28002 Madrid

copy to
Swiss Accreditation Service SAS
Head of SAS
Mr. Konrad Flück
Holzikofenweg 36
CH-3003 Berne

18th June 2020

Follow-up on the matter «Urgent request for a review of the COI recognition granted to the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Research Group Food Sensory, Swiss Olive Oil Panel, Wädenswil, Switzerland»

Dear Mr. Ghedira

IOF - International Olive Foundation and the undersigned of this letter, Manuel Santana, Pierluigi Tosato and Silvan Brun, thank you for your clarifying reply of 11 June 2020.

In your letter you confirm that the sensory analysis of virgin olive oils according to COI/T.20/Doc. No 6 must take place in a test room under laboratory conditions. And further you stated: *«Otherwise, home tasting, which takes place under non-laboratory conditions, does not produce objective results, since the conditions are not strictly controlled. Given that organoleptic assessment must take place under laboratory conditions, and given the pandemic, measures should be taken in the laboratory as in any other chemical laboratory.»*

The legal department of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, however, interprets the statements of the IOC letter to IOF - International Olive Foundation in an unconventional way and claims that the Swiss Olive Oil Panel fulfils the requirements of the IOC.

We quote the letter from the Legal Department in its entirety, translated from German into English: *«The IOC did not state that tests can only be carried out in sensory labs, the term is simply "test room". It also did not state that home testing is not allowed in principle and would not provide objective results. Rather, the point is that the corresponding requirements must be met. In our opinion, these requirements are fulfilled at our home testing stations. However, it is precisely on these issues that we are in a dialogue with the IOC, which has not yet been concluded. Furthermore, I would like to point out once again that the Swiss Accreditation Service is very familiar with our home testing facilities and the corresponding procedures.»*

In other words, the Zurich University of Applied Sciences claims that laboratory conditions prevail at the home testing stations of the respective olive oil tasters, implying that the tests were carried out in full compliance with IOC guidelines and the regulation (EEC) No. 2568/91 in its current valid version. At this point, we refer once again to the photographic material forwarded to you, which proves the opposite.

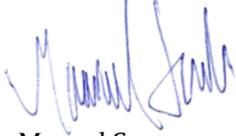
We consider this an affront to the very well-established standards of the International Olive Council and request from you, Mr. Ghedira, an absolutely unequivocal statement regarding the home testing activities of the Swiss Olive Oil Panel.

Our activity in this case is not ment to be a personal attack on the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, but rather is an appropriate measure in order to protect the legally binding IOC standards and thus the Extra Virgin standard.

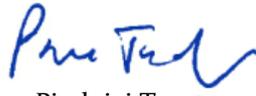
Please confirm receipt of this letter of request to IOF - International Olive Foundation.

We thank you very much for your attention and look forward to your further reply.

Best regards



Manuel Santana
Member of the Board



Pierluigi Tosato
Member of the Board



Silvan Brun
Chairman