

2-Minute Statement – Córdoba Declaration – World Olive Day 2025

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen,

It is a great honor to join you here in Córdoba, representing the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food to celebrate World Olive Day— a day that reflects our shared Mediterranean heritage and our shared responsibility to safeguard the future of the olive-sector.

The olive tree is a symbol of resilience, rooted deeply in our culture and economy and it continues to support rural communities across our region. Olive oil is much more than a product; it embodies centuries of tradition, culture, and knowledge.

Its history is intertwined with the ancient trade routes of the Mediterranean. For millennia, olive oil and table olives have nourished communities, powered economies and served as a bridge between civilizations. Beyond its economic and nutritional value, the olive is a timeless symbol of peace, friendship, and prosperity, reminding us of our shared responsibility to preserve the land and its fruits.

Today, this responsibility takes on new urgency. Climate change is altering olive physiology and oil composition across the Mediterranean, with rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events challenging the cultivation.

International standards for olive oils and policies must therefore be flexible, adaptive, and science based, ensuring that high quality, authentic olive oil remains accessible while safeguarding consumers.

Olive oil is also the cornerstone of the Mediterranean diet, a globally recognized model of health and longevity.

Protecting its authenticity and quality is therefore not only an economic priority but a public health and cultural imperative. Greece emphasizes the importance of traceability, authenticity and science-based criteria that ensure a balanced and secure market.

Finally, Greece reaffirms its commitment to continued scientific cooperation within the IOC, for this issue. Our shared goal is clear: protect producers, preserve authenticity, and strengthen the global reputation of extra virgin olive oil.

Let this be a declaration of unity. Together, guided by science, tradition, and our shared Mediterranean heritage, we can ensure a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for the olive sector worldwide.