



## DECISION DEC-III.3/123-VI /2026

# REVISING THE RULES OF THE IOC MARIO SOLINAS QUALITY AWARD FOR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE COUNCIL,

**Having regard** to the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015, and in particular Article 1 "Objectives of the Agreement" relating to standardisation and research concerning the harmonisation of national and international legislation;

**Having regard** to the decision of the Council of Members establishing the Mario Solinas Quality Award, an international competition that rewards the best extra virgin olive oils since the 2000/01 crop year, selected by an international jury for each category;

**Having regard** to the decision of the Council of Members establishing the Mario Solinas Quality Award for southern hemisphere countries as of the 2023/2024 crop year;

**Having regard** to Decision DEC-III.5/121-VI/2025 dated 8 July 2025 on the adoption by the Council of Members of the rules for the 3rd edition of the IOC Mario Solinas Quality Award for extra virgin olive oils from the southern hemisphere;

**Considering** the importance olive oil professionals place on the international recognition of their efforts to market extra virgin olive oils with exceptional organoleptic qualities, which is precisely the aim of the Mario Solinas Quality Award;

**Considering** the importance of reinforcing the dissemination of the Mario Solinas Quality Award and improving the quality of extra virgin olive oils produced in southern hemisphere countries;

**Considering** the difference in the olive harvesting periods between the northern and southern hemispheres;

**Considering** the unanimous proposal made by the IOC experts in organoleptic assessment



at their meeting held on 20 and 21 May 2025 to revise the rules of the Mario Solinas Quality Award for the southern hemisphere;

**Considering** the need to introduce a category dedicated to small-scale producers, in line with the Mario Solinas Quality Award (Northern Hemisphere edition), with a minimum batch volume adapted to production conditions in southern hemisphere countries;

### **Decides**

To review the rules of the Mario Solinas Quality Award in the southern hemisphere (COI/T.30-1/Doc. No. 3) for the 2026 edition, appended to this decision.

Madrid (Spain), 30/03/2026

Tawfik EL ACHCHABI  
Chair of the International Olive Council