

Official Journal of the European Union

C 102



English edition

Information and Notices

Volume 63

30 March 2020

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance.

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance.

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case M.9663 – Vossloh Rail Services/Rhomberg Sersa Rail Holding/Vossloh Rail Maintenance
(Railway Switches Repair and Maintenance))***(Text with EEA relevance)*

(2020/C 102/01)

On 16 March 2020, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in German and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32020M9663. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

Initiation of proceedings
(Case M.9547 – Johnson & Johnson/Tachosil)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2020/C 102/02)

On 25 March 2020, the Commission decided to initiate proceedings in the above-mentioned case after finding that the notified concentration raises serious doubts as to its compatibility with the internal market. The initiation of proceedings opens a second phase investigation with regard to the notified concentration, and is without prejudice to the final decision on the case. The decision is based on Article 6(1)(c) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004⁽¹⁾.

The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their observations on the proposed concentration to the Commission.

In order to be fully taken into account in the procedure, observations should reach the Commission not later than 15 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+ 32 22964301), by email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference M.9547 – Johnson & Johnson/Tachosil, to the following address:

European Commission

Directorate-General for Competition

Merger Registry

1049 Bruxelles/Brussel

BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

COUNCIL

Notice for the attention of certain persons subject to the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/458, concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya

(2020/C 102/03)

The following information is brought to the attention of the persons referred to in Article 17(3) and (4) of Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 ⁽¹⁾ and designated in Annexes II and IV to Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 and in Annex III to Council Regulation (EU) 2016/44 ⁽²⁾ concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya.

The Council of the European Union, after having reviewed the designation of those persons, has determined that the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2011/137/CFSP ⁽³⁾ and in Council Regulation (EU) No 204/2011 ⁽⁴⁾ should continue to apply to those persons.

The attention of the persons concerned is drawn to the possibility of making an application to the competent authorities of the relevant Member State(s) as indicated on the websites in Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2016/44, in order to obtain an authorisation to use frozen funds for basic needs or specific payments (cf. Article 8 of the Regulation).

The persons concerned may submit a request to the Council to be provided with the additional evidence on which the Council relied. They may also submit to the Council a request before 15 August 2020, together with supporting documentation, that the decision to maintain them on the above-mentioned list be reconsidered. Any such request should be sent to the following address:

Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
RELEX.1.C
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Email: sanctions@consilium.europa.eu

Any observations received will be taken into account for the purpose of the Council's periodic review, in accordance with Article 17 of Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333.

The attention of the persons concerned is also drawn to the possibility of challenging the Council's decision before the General Court of the European Union, in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 275, second paragraph, and Article 263, fourth and sixth paragraphs, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 206, 1.8.2015, p. 34.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 12, 19.1.2016, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 58, 3.3.2011, p. 53.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 58, 3.3.2011, p. 1.

Notice for the attention of the data subjects to whom the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/458 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya apply

(2020/C 102/04)

The attention of data subjects is drawn to the following information in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾.

The legal basis for this processing operation is Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 ⁽²⁾ as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/458 ⁽³⁾.

The controller of this processing operation is the Department RELEX.1.C in the Directorate-General for Foreign Affairs, Enlargement and Civil Protection - RELEX of the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC), that can be contacted at:

Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
RELEX.1.C
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Email: sanctions@consilium.europa.eu

The GSC's Data Protection Officer can be contacted at:

Data Protection Officer

data.protection@consilium.europa.eu

The purpose of the processing operation is the establishment and updating of the list of persons subject to restrictive measures in accordance with Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 as amended by Decision (CFSP) 2020/458.

The data subjects are the natural persons who fulfil the listing criteria as laid down in Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya.

The personal data collected includes data necessary for the correct identification of the person concerned, the statement of reasons and any other data related thereto.

The personal data collected may be shared as necessary with the European External Action Service and the Commission.

Without prejudice to restrictions pursuant to Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, the exercise of the rights of the data subjects such as the right of access, as well as the rights to rectification or to object will be answered in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Personal data will be retained for 5 years from the moment the data subject has been removed from the list of persons subject to the restrictive measures or the validity of the measure has expired, or for the duration of court proceedings in the event they had been started.

Without prejudice to any judicial, administrative or non-judicial remedy, data subjects may lodge a complaint with the European Data Protection Supervisor in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (edps@edps.europa.eu).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 206, 1.8.2015, p. 34.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 97, 30.3.2020, p. 13.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

27 March 2020

(2020/C 102/05)

1 euro =

| Currency | Exchange rate | Currency | Exchange rate | | |
|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| USD | US dollar | 1,0977 | CAD | Canadian dollar | 1,5521 |
| JPY | Japanese yen | 119,36 | HKD | Hong Kong dollar | 8,5095 |
| DKK | Danish krone | 7,4606 | NZD | New Zealand dollar | 1,8548 |
| GBP | Pound sterling | 0,89743 | SGD | Singapore dollar | 1,5762 |
| SEK | Swedish krona | 11,0158 | KRW | South Korean won | 1 346,31 |
| CHF | Swiss franc | 1,0581 | ZAR | South African rand | 19,3415 |
| ISK | Iceland króna | 154,00 | CNY | Chinese yuan renminbi | 7,7894 |
| NOK | Norwegian krone | 11,6558 | HRK | Croatian kuna | 7,6140 |
| BGN | Bulgarian lev | 1,9558 | IDR | Indonesian rupiah | 17 716,88 |
| CZK | Czech koruna | 27,299 | MYR | Malaysian ringgit | 4,7619 |
| HUF | Hungarian forint | 355,65 | PHP | Philippine peso | 56,125 |
| PLN | Polish zloty | 4,5306 | RUB | Russian rouble | 86,3819 |
| RON | Romanian leu | 4,8375 | THB | Thai baht | 35,769 |
| TRY | Turkish lira | 7,0935 | BRL | Brazilian real | 5,5905 |
| AUD | Australian dollar | 1,8209 | MXN | Mexican peso | 25,8329 |
| | | | INR | Indian rupee | 82,8695 |

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

DECISION No 485

of 6 August 2019

opening a procedure for granting authorisation for the prospection and exploration of oil and natural gas, being underground natural resources as defined in Article 2(1)(3) of the Underground Natural Resources Act, in 'Block 1-26 Tervel', located in the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Black Sea, and announcing that authorisation will be granted on the basis of a competitive bidding procedure

(2020/C 102/06)

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Pursuant to Articles 5(2), 7(2)(8), 42(1)(1) and 44(3) of the Underground Natural Resources Act, and Articles 4(1)(1) and 16 of the Regulation on the conduct of bidding and tendering procedures for granting authorisation for the prospection and/or exploration of, and awarding concessions for the production of, underground natural resources as defined by the Underground Natural Resources Act, adopted by Council of Ministers Resolution No 231 of 11 October 2010, and a reasoned proposal by the Minister for Energy:

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A procedure shall be opened for granting authorisation for the prospection and exploration of oil and natural gas in 'Block 1-26 Tervel', located in in the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Black Sea, having an area of 4 032 km² and defined by coordinates 1 to 7 as specified in the Annex.
2. The authorisation referred to in point 1 shall be granted on the basis of a competitive bidding procedure under which bidders are not present when the bids are considered.
3. The authorisation period for prospection and exploration shall be set at five years from the date on which the prospection and exploration agreement enters into force, with a right to extend this period pursuant to Article 31(3) of the Underground Natural Resources Act.
4. The deadline for purchasing the bidding dossier shall be 17.30 on the 120th day following the publication of this Decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
5. The deadline for submitting applications to take part in the competitive bidding procedure shall be 17.30 on the 140th day following the publication of this Decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
6. The deadline for submitting bids in accordance with the bidding dossier shall be 17.30 on the 155th day following the publication of this Decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
7. The bidding dossier price shall be BGN 10 000. The bidding dossier is to be obtained from the Ministry of Energy at: ul. Triaditsa 8, Sofia, by the deadline specified in point 4 upon presentation of a payment order.
 - 7.1. The amount specified in point 7 shall be paid into the bank account of the Ministry of Energy:
BIC of the BNB for payments in Bulgarian currency (BGN) – BNBGBGSD;
SWIFT code of the BNB for payments in foreign currency – BNBGBGSF;
IBAN – BG94 BNBG 9661 3000 1421 01, BNB headquarters.
 - 7.2. The following should be recorded on the payment order: 'For the bidding dossier for 'Block 1-26 Tervel' purchased on behalf of the applicant' whose name must be written on the payment order.
 - 7.3. The person receiving the bidding dossier shall sign a declaration on behalf of the applicant, undertaking to protect the confidentiality of the information contained therein.
8. Applicants wishing to participate in the bidding procedure must fulfil the requirements specified in Article 23(1) of the Underground Natural Resources Act.
9. The applicant or where the applicant is a grouping, each of its members, must provide a declaration confirming the absence of the circumstances under Article 2 in conjunction with § 1 of the Additional Provisions of the Act on economic and financial relationships with companies registered in preferential tax regime jurisdictions, entities controlled by them and their beneficial owners (ZIFODRYUPDRKTLTDS) (SG No 1, 2014) or evidence of the existence of circumstances under Article 4 of ZIFODRYUPDRKTLTDS.

10. The applicant enterprise or grouping must possess at least the minimum managerial capabilities required for carrying out prospection and exploration activities. As proof of such capabilities, all the following conditions must be met:
 - 10.1 the applicant or, where the applicant is a grouping, each of its members, must provide original references from business partners and
 - 10.2 the applicant or, where the applicant is a grouping, at least one of its members, must provide evidence of professional expertise and experience obtained in managing at least one project for the offshore prospection and/or exploration, or production of mineral resources – oil and natural gas.
 - 10.3 The applicant may prove managerial capabilities by reference to the capabilities of connected third parties, whether natural or legal persons, provided the applicant presents evidence of the use of the capabilities of these third parties, as well as documents proving their professional expertise and management experience. Proof of the capabilities of third parties shall be furnished through the presentation of documents as specified in the bidding dossier.
11. The applicant enterprise or, where the applicant is a grouping, at least one of its members, must have generated a minimum of EUR 150 000 000 (one hundred and fifty million) total net sales revenue for the three preceding financial years (depending on the date of its establishment). Where the applicant is a grouping which is not a legal person, the requirement set out in this point applies to the grouping as a whole;

or

 - 11.1 the applicant or, where the applicant is a grouping, at least one of its members, must provide a reference from a bank or other financial institution certifying that it has the necessary financial means at its disposal to implement the oil and natural gas prospection and exploration activities in 'Block 1-26 Tervei';

or
 - 11.2 the applicant or where the applicant is a grouping, at least one of its members, must submit a letter of intent from a bank or other financial institution regarding the provision to the applicant of the funds necessary for the implementation of the oil and natural gas prospection and exploration activities in 'Block 1-26 Tervei'.
 - 11.3 Evidence of financial resources may be provided by reference to the resources of connected third parties, whether natural or legal persons, provided the applicant can prove that these resources will be made available to it, specifying their amount in BGN. Proof of the capabilities of third parties shall be furnished through the presentation of documents as specified in the bidding dossier.
12. Applicants' bids shall be evaluated on the basis of the proposed work programmes, resources devoted to environmental protection and bonuses, as provided for in the bidding dossier.
13. The deposit for participation in the competitive bidding procedure shall be set at BGN 15 000, payable by the deadline specified in point 5 into the bank account of the Ministry of Energy:

BIC of the BNB for payments in Bulgarian currency (BGN) – BNBGBGSD;

SWIFT code of the BNB for payments in foreign currency – BNBGBGSF;

IBAN – BG75 BNBG 9661 3300 1421 03, BNB headquarters.
14. Applicants who are not admitted to the competitive bidding procedure shall have their deposits reimbursed within 14 days from the date on which the selection board's decision not to admit them comes into effect.
15. The successful bidder's deposit shall be reimbursed within 14 days from the entry into force of the agreement, and the other bidders' deposits shall be reimbursed within 14 days from the publication in the State Gazette of the Council of Ministers' decision to grant authorisation for prospection and exploration.
16. Applications to take part in the competitive bidding procedure and bids under the competitive bidding procedure shall be submitted to the Registry of the Ministry of Energy at: ul. Triaditsa 8, Sofia, in Bulgarian, in accordance with Article 46 of the Underground Natural Resources Act.
17. Bids shall comply with the requirements and conditions specified in the bidding dossier.
18. The competitive bidding procedure shall take place even if only one applicant is admitted to take part in it.
19. The Minister of Energy is authorised to:
 - 19.1 send this Decision for publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;

- 19.2 organise and conduct the competitive bidding procedure.
20. This Decision shall be published in the State Gazette and on the Council of Ministers website.
21. Appeals against this Decision may be addressed to the Supreme Administrative Court within 14 days of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Prime Minister
Boyko BORISOV

Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers
Veselin DAKOV

Secretary-General
Tatyana SEKULOVA

*Director of the Directorate for Legal Affairs,
Administrative Services and Human Resources of The
Ministry of Energy*
Miroslava HRISTOVA

ANNEX

Register of boundary point coordinates of 'Block 1-26 Tervel'

(WGS84 coordinate system)

| No | Longitude E | Latitude N |
|----|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | 29°07'28,85" | 42°48'47,00" |
| 2 | 30°34'10,00" | 42°48'03,00" |
| 3 | 29°58'30,00" | 42°33'27,00" |
| 4 | 29°49'36,00" | 42°29'24,00" |
| 5 | 29°34'20,00" | 42°26'24,00" |
| 6 | 29°20'45,00" | 42°14'28,00" |
| 7 | 29°07'32,31" | 42°11'22,71" |

V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION
POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9799 – Goldman Sachs/Summa Equity/EcoOnline)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2020/C 102/07)

1. On 20 March 2020, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾.

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

- The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ('Goldman Sachs', USA),
- Summa Equity AB ('Summa Equity', Sweden), a subsidiary of Summa Equity Holding AB (Sweden),
- EcoOnline AS ('EcoOnline', Norway), currently solely controlled by Summa Equity I fund, which belong to Summa Equity.

Goldman Sachs and Summa Equity acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the whole of EcoOnline.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Goldman Sachs: a global investment banking, securities and investment management firm,
- for Summa Equity: a private equity fund that focuses on investment in the mid-cap segment in Northern Europe,
- for EcoOnline: a company that provides health and safety software and services related thereto.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽²⁾ it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. The following reference should always be specified:

M.9799 – Goldman Sachs/Summa Equity/EcoOnline

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email, by fax, or by post. Please use the contact details below:

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case M.9614 – ÖBB-Technische Services-Gesellschaft mbH/LTE Logistik- und Transport-GmbH)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2020/C 102/08)

1. On 17 March 2020, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾.

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

- ÖBB-Technische Services-Gesellschaft mbH ('OBB-TS', Austria),
- LTE Logistik- und Transport-GmbH ('LTE', Austria),
- Instandhaltungs GmbH ('JV', Austria).

OBB-TS and LTE acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the newly created JV.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- OBB-TS is a provider of maintenance services for rolling stock.
- LTE is a logistic company that provides cargo train services.
- The JV will provide light maintenance services for rolling stock at one facility near Vienna, Austria.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽²⁾ it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. The following reference should always be specified:

M.9614 — OBB-TS/LTE

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email, by fax, or by post. Please use the contact details below:

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

OTHER ACTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Publication of an application pursuant to Article 50(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2020/C 102/09)

This publication confers the right to oppose the application pursuant to Article 51 of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

‘ΕΛΑΙΟΛΑΔΟ ΜΑΚΡΗΣ’ (ELAIOLADO MAKRIS)**EU No: PDO-GR-02388-AM01 – 11.1.2018****PDO (X) PGI ()****1. Name(s)**

‘Ελαιόλαδο Μάκρης’ (Elaiolado Makris)

2. Member State or Third Country

Greece

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff**3.1. Type of product**

Class 1.5. Oils and fats (butter, margarine, oil, etc.)

3.2. Description of the product to which the name in (1) applies

‘Elaiolado Makris’ is an extra virgin olive oil produced from olives of the indigenous ‘Elia Makris’ variety, which accounts for around 99 % of the olives grown in the defined area.

‘Elaiolado Makris’ has the following characteristics:

Colour: bright yellow-green, becoming golden yellow as it matures;

Aroma: medium fruity with a median of $M_f > 4$, with a scent of herbs, daisies and marigolds when the olive oil is produced from semi-unripe olives, and a dominant scent of camomile when the olives are ripe. Notes of apple and almond harmoniously complement the fruity aroma of ‘Elaiolado Makris’;

Taste: well-balanced, with a slightly bitter aftertaste with median bitterness ($M_b = 2-3$), slightly pungent with median pungency ($M_p = 2-3$), median defect ($M_d = 0$);

Acidity: low acidity $< 0,6$;

Peroxide value: $< 10,9$ meq O_2/kg ;

Ultraviolet absorbency: $K_{270} < 0,18$, and $K_{232} < 2,2$;

Waxes: $< 127,8$ mg/kg;

Oleic acid: ≥ 75 of total fatty acids;

Low to medium content of campesterol ($\leq 2,9$) and residual sterols, and total sterols $> 1\ 000$ mg/kg;

Absorption coefficient variation ($\Delta K = 0-0,002$).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

3.3. *Feed (for products of animal origin only) and raw materials (for processed products only)*

'Elaiolado Makris' is produced from the indigenous 'Elia Makris' olive variety grown in the area, which yields olives that are spherical, medium-sized and black when ripe.

3.4. *Specific steps in production that must take place in the defined geographical area*

The cultivation of old and new olive groves planted with the indigenous 'Elia Makris' variety, the harvesting of the olives and all the stages in the production and processing of the olive oil.

3.5. *Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc. of the product to which the registered name refers*

3.6. *Specific rules concerning labelling of the product to which the registered name refers*

Labelling will include the name of the product and the EU PDO logo. It will also include the following:

- Logo with the name of the product in Greek or Latin characters, with a photograph of the village of Makri in the background above a picture of an olive tree with drops of olive oil dripping down and forming a pool of olive oil with olives in the centre.



4. **Concise definition of the geographical area**

The defined geographical area covers the administrative boundaries of the Makri communal district, which includes the settlements of Makri, Dikella, Mesimvria and Plaka, and the settlement of Chili in the Alexandroupoli municipal district.

5. **Link with the geographical area**

'Elaiolado Makris' has distinctive organoleptic and physico-chemical characteristics. These are due to a number of factors, namely the specific indigenous 'Elia Makris' olive variety, which thrives in the defined area, the area's soil and climatic conditions, and the methods used by the local producers.

The specific organoleptic characteristics of 'Elaiolado Makris' are:

- the medium fruity aroma with a scent of herbs, daisies and marigolds when harvesting begins, and a dominant scent of camomile when the olives are ripe, complemented by notes of apple and almond. This combination is typical of 'Elaiolado Makris', which is produced in the defined area from the indigenous 'Elia Makris' variety,
- the slightly bitter and pungent taste, harmonious and balanced, which is also a combination typical of the indigenous 'Elia Makris' variety.

The specific physico-chemical characteristics of 'Elaiolado Makris' are:

- low acidity < 0,6;
- a low peroxide value (< 10,9) and hence increased resistance to oxidation and suitability for storage, which gives the oil its typical freshness;
- low absorption coefficients (K_{270} : < 0,18 and K_{232} : < 2,2), which are a sign of freshness, rapid post-harvest processing and storage in the right conditions;
- a low absorption coefficient variation (Δ -K: = 0–0,002);
- its keeping quality, which is mainly due to the high level of monounsaturated oleic acid, which is minimally susceptible to autoxidation.

The defined area is the most northerly point in Greece where olives are grown and consists of a hilly plain, with an average altitude of 200 m. The soil is medium-textured sandy loam. It is poor and calcareous in the mountains and of limestone origin, medium-textured and fertile in the plains, with a CaCO_3 content of 3 % to 31,6 %. The organic matter content is low to satisfactory in a few areas (1,8 % to 6,5 %). The pH (7–8) is generally neutral to slightly alkaline. The limestone origin of the soil, in combination with the continual exposure of the olives to the sun due to the configuration of the land, helps to increase the concentration of volatile components, which give 'Elaiolado Makris' its fruity aroma.

The defined area where 'Elaiolado Makris' is produced has a coastal Mediterranean microclimate with mild winters and cool summers. Dangerous frosts are rare. On the few occasions when there have been frosts, the 'Elia Makris' olive has proved very resistant, with minimal damage to the trees. In the defined area, which has 15 kilometres of coastline along the Thracian Sea and mountain peaks – the branches of the Rodopi mountain range to the north-west, north and north-east – the conditions for growing the indigenous 'Elia Makris' olive are exceptionally good. The long hours of sunshine, the absence of major fluctuations in temperature and the fact that frosts and cold winds are rare, owing to the natural barrier created by the mountains in the north of the defined area, contribute to the smooth progression of all stages in the olive trees' development (flowering, growth) and enhance the fruit's organoleptic characteristics. The area's very distinctive microclimate is such that olive fruit fly is rarely a problem, so there are very few damaged olives and the few that occur do not adversely affect the acidity of the olive oil.

The distinctive indigenous 'Elia Makris' variety, which has been grown for hundreds of years in the defined area only and is adapted to the prevailing soil and climatic conditions, yields olive oil with the specific quality characteristics of 'Elaiolado Makris'. 'Elaiolado Makris' is one of the first olive oils to be produced during the year in Greece, even though the area is the northernmost part of the country and one of the most northerly olive oil-producing areas in the EU. This is due to both the indigenous variety and the local microclimate. The fact that the variety crops early means that the fruit's growth and ripening periods coincide with maximum exposure to sunlight. This increases the levels of the oil's aromatic components and gives it the yellow-green or bright golden yellow colour typical of 'Elaiolado Makris'.

The most important human factors influencing the specificity of the product are:

- The harvesting method. Harvesting in small olive groves is done by hand by the producers themselves or by workers so that the olives gathered are not damaged. In large olive groves where there are many trees, the olives are gathered using individually-operated electric harvesters. The olives are collected in crates or nets and, once they are cleared of branches and leaves so as not to be squashed, they are transferred to plastic crates with holes at the bottom and on the sides for better ventilation.
- The transportation of the olives to the mill and the milling of the olives, which takes place on the day of harvesting or within 24 hours. If they are not milled the same day, the olives are kept protected from conditions that favour the development of microorganisms and cause the quality of 'Elaiolado Makris' to deteriorate. The harvesting method and the immediate transportation to the mill and milling ensure that the olives remain undamaged, so that the oil produced has low absorption coefficients K_{270} – K_{232} , a low Delta-K (absorption coefficient variation) and low acidity.
- The storage time, which is very short, as the oil starts to be marketed shortly after it is stored, the storage conditions, where the oil is kept at a suitable temperature, in a cool, dark place, in suitable, closed containers that protect it from contact with oxygen and from the light and the fact that the number of times it is decanted is kept to a minimum, are factors that contribute to the low peroxide value, low absorption coefficients (K_{270} – K_{232}) and low Delta-K of 'Elaiolado Makris'.
- The gentle production conditions. After the olives are crushed, malaxation takes place at a slow speed (17-19 revolutions per minute) for a short time (40 to 45 minutes) and the temperature of the olive paste is kept at approximately 27–32 °C. This temperature helps to ensure that the volatile components of the olive oil are not destroyed, the colour is not altered and the acidity does not increase. The slow malaxation speed and short malaxation time help the droplets to coalesce to form bigger drops and are crucial for limiting the formation of emulsions, which make it harder to separate the oil from the olive paste and the vegetal water.

In summary, the harvesting of the olives at the right stage of ripeness, the good practices applied by the producers during harvesting and during transportation of the olives to the mill, the fact that the olives are milled within a short time of arrival, the good malaxation and extraction practices, the conditions in which the oil is stored, together with the olive variety itself and the soil and climatic conditions, ensure that the oil's specific organoleptic and physico-chemical characteristics (fruitiness, fresh sensation, low absorption indicators, low acidity, low peroxide value, good keeping quality) are preserved and that its colour does not alter.

The people of Makri and the surrounding area have been linked with olive growing and 'Elaiolado Makris' since time immemorial. The long-established presence of olive trees in the area is bound up with its history, traditions and culture and evidenced by historical sources and bibliographical references. In the 'Ancient Makri Olive Grove', olive trees can be found today whose size, shape and gnarled trunks attest to their great age. The presence of old-style manually operated olive presses and wooden presses from the 19th century also attests to the local people's long-standing experience in producing olive oil.

'Elaiolado Makris' has been entered in many international competitions, where it has won major awards. In 2012, in Portugal it won gold in the 2^o *Concurso internacional de azeites virgem extra – Premio Ovibeja* in Portugal. In 2013, it won a gold wreath in the Kotinos quality competition for packaged, branded extra virgin olive oils in Greece. In 2015, it won gold in the *Concurso Internacional de aceite de oliva en el Mediterraneo – Terraolivo* in Jerusalem, Israel. In 2016, it won gold in the London International Olive Oil Competitions. In 2018, it won gold in the *Concurso Internacional de Aceites di Oliva Virgin Extra 'OLIVINUS'* in Argentina and gold again in the New York International Olive Oil Competition in the United States. In 2019, at the 16th *Concorso Oleario Internazionale AIPO d'Argento*, it achieved a score of 'tre gocce' (three drops). In the EVOO world ranking it is placed 18th out of 12 000 for 2019. It also appears in the top 500 in the world for another year in the Flos Olei guide 2020.

Every year, in summer, an Olive Festival is held during the last 10 days of August. It is organised by the Makri women's association, with the help of the olive producers' cooperative and Evros Regional Unit. Many visitors come from within the area and beyond and seminars and talks are organised on good practices in olive growing, along with tasting classes given by experts in olive oil. There are also visits to olive-growing plots for stake-holders to learn about the Makri olive, and various other events. On the closing evening of the festival, everyone comes together to sample foods and different specialities made with 'Elaiolado Makris'.

Publication reference of the specification

(the second subparagraph of Article 6(1) of the Regulation)

http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/POP-PGE/prodiagrafes_elaiolado_makris111219.pdf

ISSN 1977-091X (electronic edition)
ISSN 1725-2423 (paper edition)



Publications Office of the European Union
2985 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG

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