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PREPARATION OF A PROTOCOL EXTENDING  
THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON OLIVE OIL AND  
TABLE OLIVES, 1986, WITH AMENDMENTS

International cooperation on olive oil and table olives

Note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat in cooperation with the  
Executive Secretariat of the International Olive Oil Council

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Olive oil and table olives play an important role in the agricultural and processing sectors of producing countries. Most olive oil is consumed in producing countries and only 16 per cent of production normally enters world trade. On average during the 1988-1991 period, the world olive oil market represented 6 per cent in quantity and 23 per cent in value of world trade in fluid edible vegetable oils<sup>1</sup>. To a large extent olive oil does not compete with other vegetable oils, having found its own specialty niche.

2. Olive production has fluctuated markedly on a year-to-year basis and this has been reflected in particular in olive oil production, as can be seen from chart 1 in annex I. In the case of table olives variations have been smaller. As can be seen from chart 2 in annex I, the demand for table olives grew annually by 3 per cent while that for olive oil was comparatively stagnant at less than 1 per cent. Stocks of table olives have tended to increase during the 1980s and early 1990s while stocks of olive oil have contracted. Olive oil prices increased markedly between 1984/85 and 1990/91, but began to decline slightly in 1991/92. Table olive prices fluctuated strongly throughout the period.

3. As portrayed in chart 3 (annex I), approximately three quarters of world olive oil production is accounted for by Italy, Spain and Greece. The shares of Spain and Greece grew respectively from 27 per cent to 32 per cent and from 15 per cent to 17 per cent between the beginning of the 1980s and the early 1990s. At the same time the share of Italy decreased from 32 to 25 per cent. During this period Tunisia consolidated its position as an important producer of olive oil, its share in world production increasing from 6 to 9 per cent.

4. The share of Spain in world production of table olives remained the largest, at a stable level of one quarter of world output (see chart 4 in annex I). The share of Morocco increased from 6 to 9 per cent, whereas those of Turkey and Greece decreased respectively from 17 to 12 and from 10 to 8 per cent. The shares of other producers remained more or less constant over the period.

5. Spain, Italy and Greece, taken together, strengthened their position in world exports of olive oil. At the beginning of the 1980s their share of world exports of olive oil was 51 per cent and increased to 53 per cent in the early 1990s. In the same period the share of Tunisia increased from 30 to 32 per cent. In the case of table olives, Spain remained the leading exporter and increased its share slightly from 44 to 45 per cent. Greece's share decreased from 19 to 10 per cent. Morocco became the second largest exporter of table olives, with a sharp growth in its share of world exports from 17 to 24 per cent.

6. At the beginning of the 1990, EEC countries accounted for 74 per cent of total world olive oil consumption, as shown in chart 7 (annex I). In the case of table olives its share is much smaller, at around 37 per cent of world consumption (see chart 8 in annex I). Over the period, the share of the United States in total olive oil consumption grew from 2 to 5 per cent, and from 15 to 18 per cent for table olives. This growth in consumption is in part attributable to the increased health-consciousness of consumers. In terms of imports the United States is becoming a major market for olive oils.

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1. These figures take into account intra-EEC trade.

## **I. PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES AGREEMENTS**

7. The first International Olive Oil Agreement was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations in the United Nations Conference on Olive Oil which took place in October 1955. It was amended by the Protocol of 3 April 1958, adopted at the second session of the United Nations Conference on Olive Oil held in Geneva from 31 March to 3 April 1958, and entered into force on 26 June 1959. It was and still is the only one of its kind in the fluid edible vegetable oils and fats sector. The main objectives of the first Agreement were to foster international coordination of production, industrialization, marketing policies and trade for olive oil. A second Agreement on olive oil was negotiated in 1963. This Agreement was amended by protocols in 1969 and 1973 which further extended the Agreement till 31 December 1978. This Agreement as amended was extended for a further year till 31 December 1979. In March 1979 a third International Olive Oil Agreement was negotiated which entered into force in January 1980. It was extended for two successive periods of one year each and expired in December 1986. Price stabilization and reduction of the surplus in world olive oil production figured among the objectives of the 1979 Agreement and its measures included promoting increased consumption through, *inter alia*, a publicity fund, and improving production and processing methods so that olive oil could become more competitive.

8. The fourth International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 1986, entered into force provisionally on 1 January 1987 and definitively on 1 December 1988. The International Olive Oil Council, by its resolution RES-2/64-IV/91 of 30 May 1991, amended Article 26 of the Agreement concerning designations and definitions of olive oils and olive-pomace oils. By resolution RES-1/66-IV/92 of 27 May 1992, the Council increased the resources earmarked for technical cooperation in olive cultivation, olive oil extraction and table olive processing from US\$ 300,000 to US\$ 600,000, with effect from 1 January 1994. It was understood that this resolution would be implemented subject to a successful extension of the 1986 Agreement as amended by United Nations Conference on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 1993. The Agreement was prolonged as amended for two periods of one year each and expires on 31 December 1993. As of 31 December 1992, the members to the 1986 Agreement were: Algeria, Cyprus, EEC, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and the former Yugoslavia.

9. The 1986 Agreement contains general objectives with respect to international cooperation and concerted action for the integrated development of the world economy for olive products and is aimed at the trade expansion and standardization of olive products, the modernization of olive cultivation and olive oil extraction, transfer of technology, improvement of the olive-products and by-products industry with regard to the environment, and the defence and promotion of trade in olive products.

## **II. STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COUNCIL**

10. The International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) exercises all such powers and performs all such functions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of the Agreement. The headquarters of the Council have been in Madrid since the first Agreement came into operation.

11. The IOOC acts as an international centre for the collection and publication of statistical information and studies on world production, consumption, exports, imports and stocks of olive oil, table olives and their derivatives. The expenses necessary for the administration of the Agreement are charged against the Administrative Budget.

12. The Council has the following subsidiary bodies: The Economic Committee, the Table Olive Committee, the Technical Committee and its Sub-Committee for Olive Oil Chemistry, the Publicity Committee, The Financial Committee for the Publicity Fund, the Financial Committee for the Administrative Budget, and the Advisory Committee on Olive Oil and Table Olives.

13. The Economic Committee prepares crop year figures for supply-demand balances for olive oil and provides estimates for the coming season. In this context, the Committee provides a forum for the exchange of information on production, consumption, export and price policies and strategies. The Committee makes an analysis of the state and trend of the international market in olive oil and elaborates studies on measures to improve the market. The Committee is also concerned on a continuous basis with bringing international trade standards and the norms relating to the methods of analysis for olive oil and olive-pomace oil into line with the Agreement, and with their international application and observance.

14. The Table Olive Committee undertakes similar activities with respect to table olives. The Committee deals also with matters relating to the harmonization of legislation and regulation of table olive designations and definitions and the normalization of international trade in table olives.

15. The Technical Committee is mainly entrusted with technical cooperation for IOOC members (training activities, research and development) and the publication and circulation of technical material. The Committee elaborates plans and programmes for its operations and activities. Allocations for technical cooperation activities are entered as a separate chapter in the Administrative Budget. Given the importance of actions to be implemented by the Council in producing member countries, the Council increased such allocations to bring them to the same level as those relating to promotion activities. The Committee also elaborates and submits to the Council for approval projects for financing through the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities (See section III).

16. The Sub-Committee for Olive Oil Chemistry of the Technical Committee deals with methods of analysis and with assessment of and standards for olive oil. The Sub-Committee is concerned with harmonization of general definitions of various types of olive oil, the elaboration of methods of analysis applicable for olive oil and olive-pomace oil and the preparation of improvements to the international method for organoleptic assessment of virgin olive oil. The Sub-Committee further proposes to the Council the granting of an official IOOC accreditation certificate for virgin olive oil tasting panels, and monitors their performances. It also supplies producing countries with information on the physio-chemical characteristics of olive oils. In May 1992 two standards for the industry were revised by the Sub-Committee and were adopted by the Council: "International Trade Standard Applying to Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils" and "Organoleptic Assessment of Virgin Olive Oil."

17. The main task of the Publicity Committee is to carry out promotional activities as well as education and information programmes for consumers in member and non-member countries aimed, *inter alia*, at increasing consumption of olive oil and its end-products. In order to increase their effectiveness, these activities are often carried out in cooperation with the relevant national organizations. Recently, promotional campaigns have been undertaken in the United States, Australia and Japan. In these importing markets, the Council has fostered the creation of olive oil associations which assist it, in collaboration with national organizations and professional associations, in guaranteeing high-quality olive oils for consumers and in ensuring the prevention as well as the repression of frauds and adulterations of various origins in trading activities. With a view to expanding promotional activities in consuming countries, the Committee is conducting market research. Another of its tasks is to produce and disseminate information material as well as technical and scientific reports on the olive

sector. It circulates scientific research findings, conducts quality control studies and it is currently preparing the " World Encyclopaedia of the Olive."

18. The Financial Committee for the Publicity Fund deals with relevant budgetary matters and reports to the Council. In 1992 the budgetary allocations for the Publicity Fund were US\$ 600,000. With voluntary contributions of US\$ 5.3 million, the total resources of the Publicity Fund have now reached US\$ 5.9 million.

19. At the sixty-fourth session of the Council in May 1991 an Advisory Committee on Olive Oil and Table Olives was established to assist the Executive Secretariat with data and information for the preparation of documents intended for submission to the Council. The Committee provides an institutional framework to maintain direct cooperation and collaboration with producers, trade circles and consumers. The Committee consists of 45 members (20 for olive oil and table olive producers and co-operatives; 9 for olive oil and table olive processing industries; 9 for olive oil and table olive dealers; and 7 for consumers).

### III. RELATIONS WITH THE COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

20. In October 1990 the Executive Board of the Common Fund for Commodities designated the International Olive Oil Council as an International Commodity Body (ICB) for the purpose of its Second Account operations. In June 1992 the Board approved a grant of SDR 365,581 as part of the financing of a project on Research and Development for the Genetic Improvement of the Olive. The objectives of the project are to raise productivity of olive farming in the target countries to a level which would offset running costs and leave the producer with a satisfactory net profit margin under current socio-economic conditions. The objectives could be achieved through genetic crossbreeding techniques using prime-variety germ plasm from European countries to improve the native varieties. The method to be employed will take into account, inter alia, plant responsiveness to disease, the soil and climatic conditions and the specific agronomic characteristics of the plants. The project aims at the training of manpower in research methodology and to disseminate the results of the research and development activity to farmers in the countries concerned.

### IV. PREPARATION OF A PROTOCOL EXTENDING THE 1986 AGREEMENT

21. On 27 March 1992, the Council decided to set up a Special Committee comprising the representatives of the members of the Council, with the task of preparing a Draft Protocol for the Extension of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 1986. The Special Committee met on 19 October and 25 November 1992. At its sixty-seventh session, the Council adopted Resolution 3/67-IV/92, entitled "Extension of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 1986". The text of this resolution is as follows:

"The International Olive Oil Council,  
Having regard to the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 1986, as amended and prolonged until 31 December 1993, hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement",  
Having regard to the decision taken at its 65th session to extend the Agreement with only minor technical adaptations,  
Having regard to the Resolution No. RES.1/S.ex.8/92 whereby a Special Committee was created to prepare a Preliminary Draft Protocol for the extension of the Agreement,  
Having regard to the proceedings of the Special Committee which met on 19 October and 25 November 1992, and to the conclusions thereof,

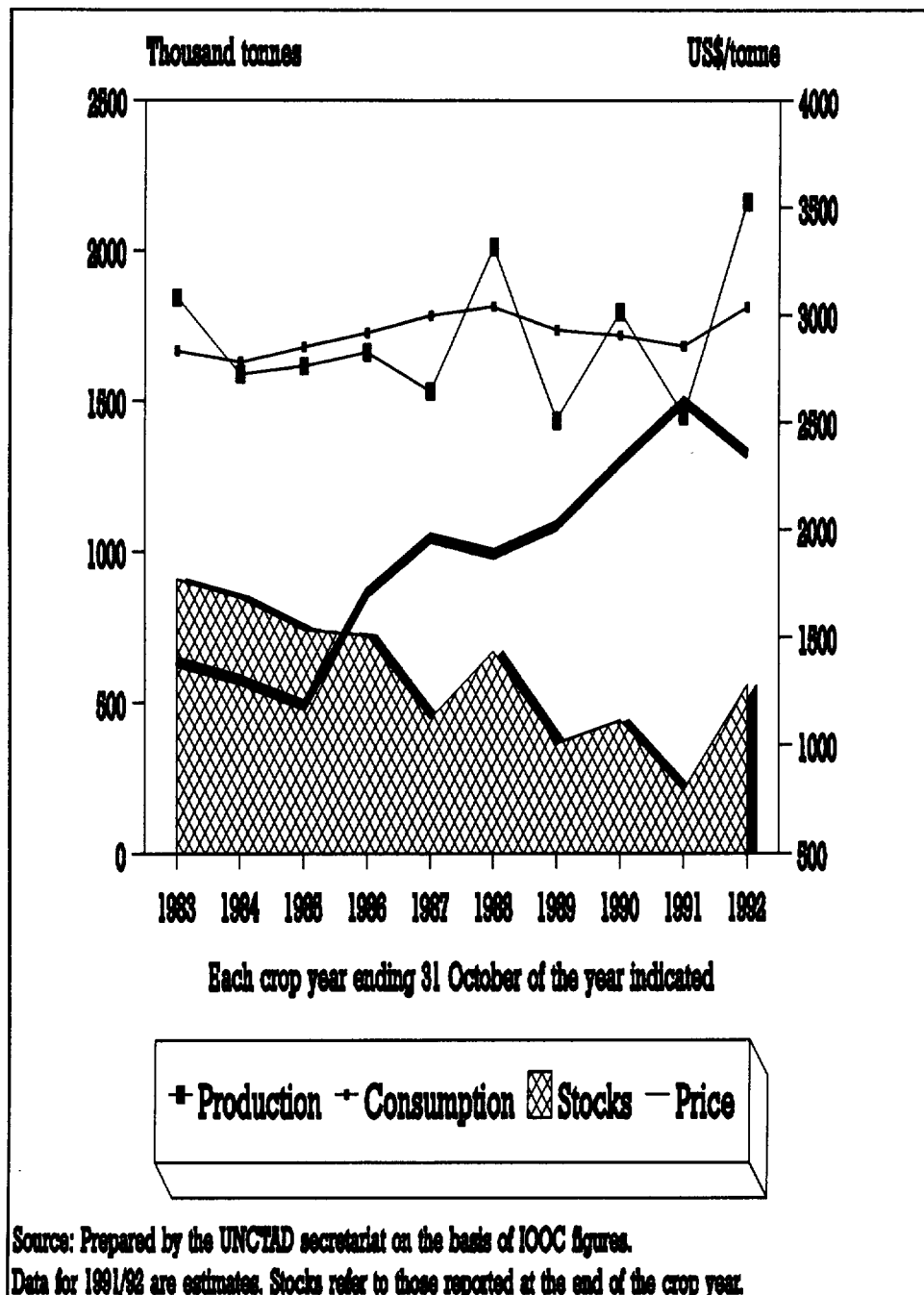
Decides

1. The Preliminary Draft Protocol drawn up by the Special Committee to extend the Agreement is hereby approved and becomes the Draft Protocol.
  2. The Executive Director is entrusted with transmitting the said Draft to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD with a view to its adoption, after discussion, at the United Nations Conference on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 1993."
22. The Draft Protocol, as approved by the Council, is being circulated to the Conference in TD/OLIVE OIL.9/R.1.

Annex I

CHARTS

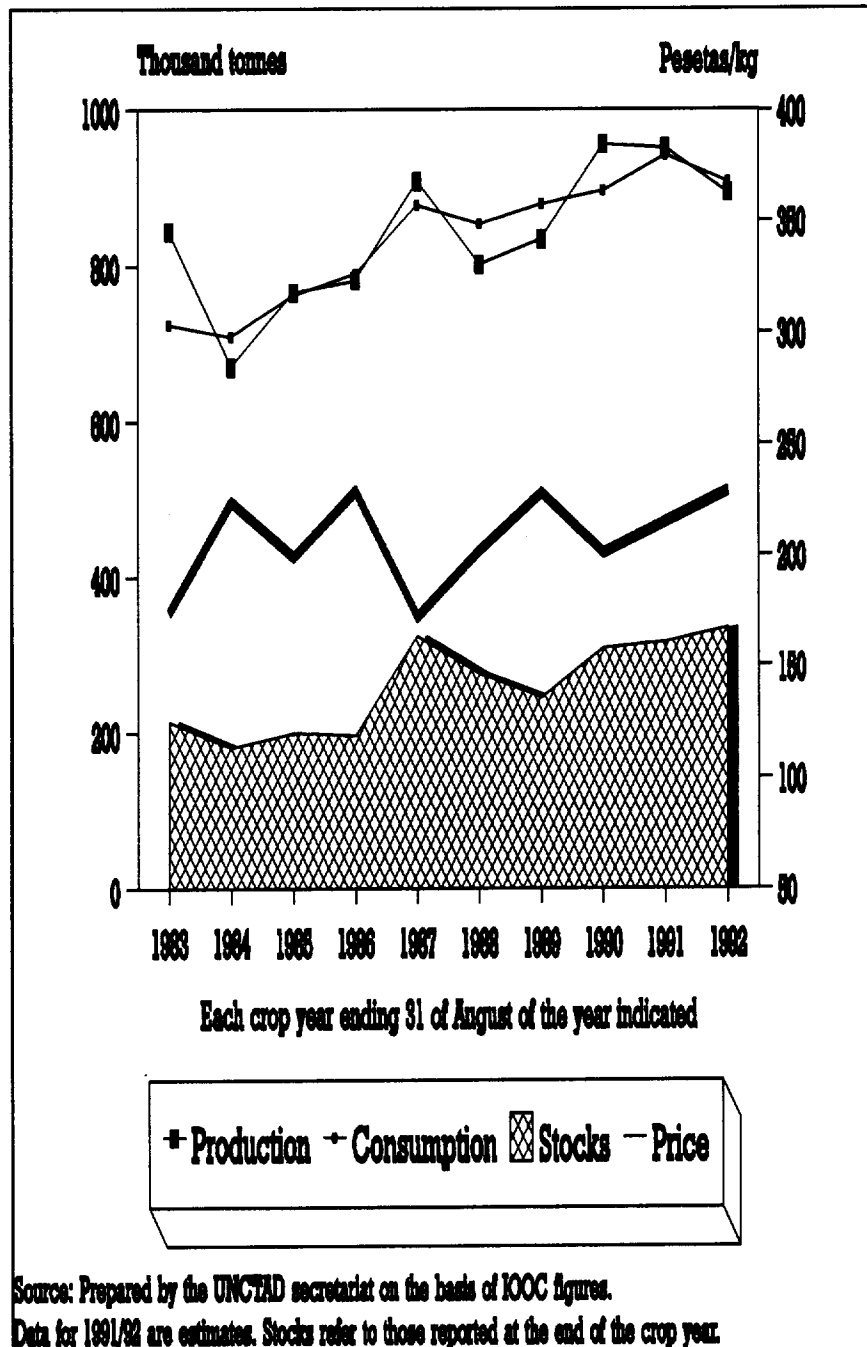
CHART 1: WORLD PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, STOCKS AND PRICES OF OLIVE OILS





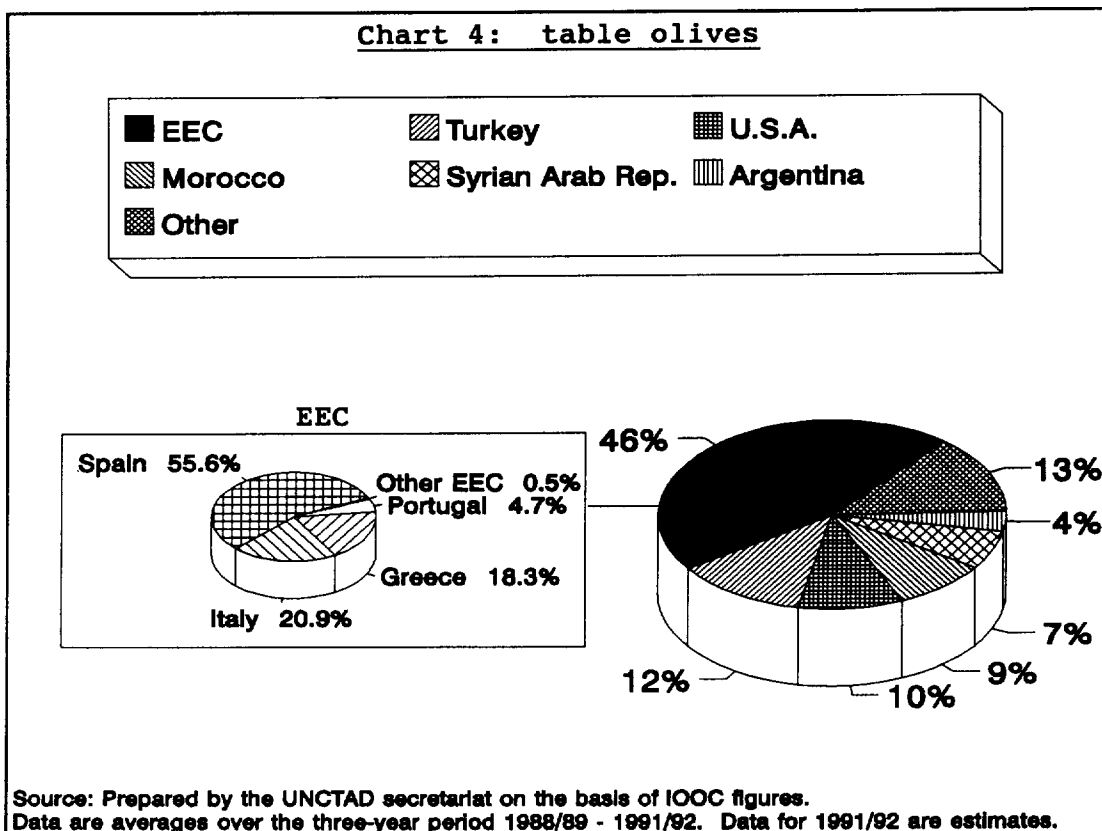
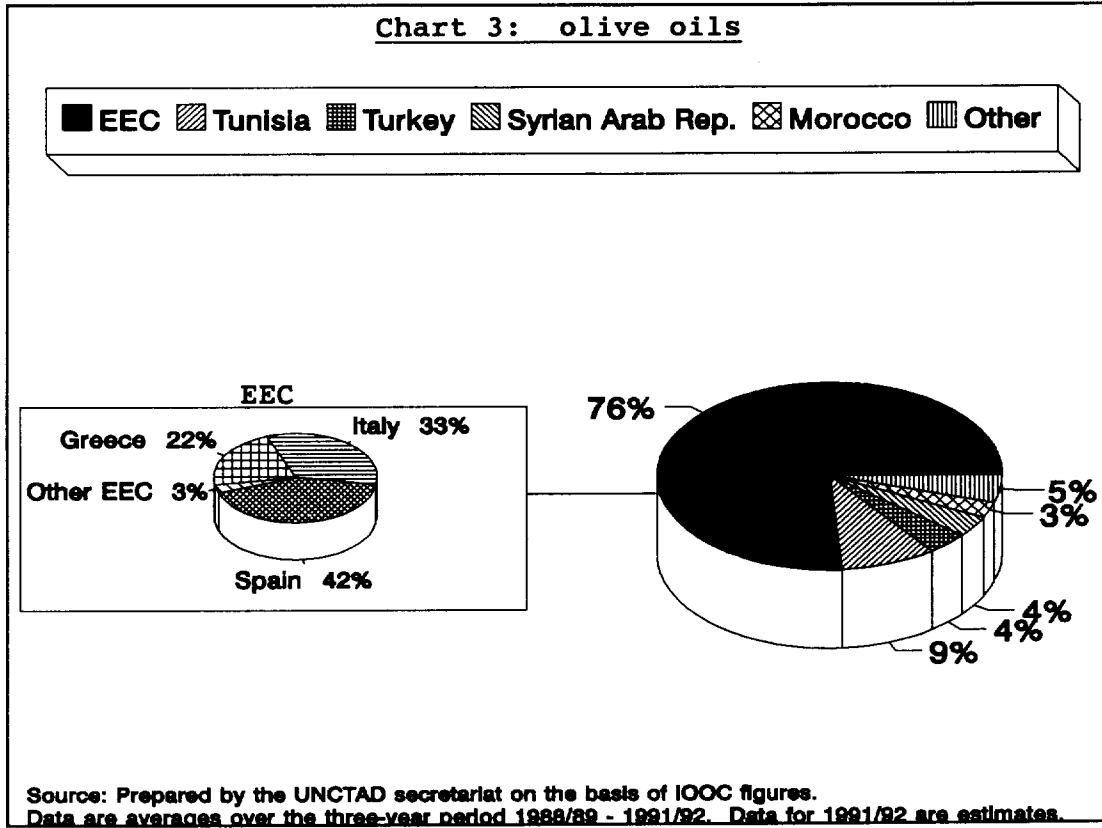
Annex I (continued)

CHART 2: WORLD PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, STOCKS AND PRICES OF TABLE OLIVES



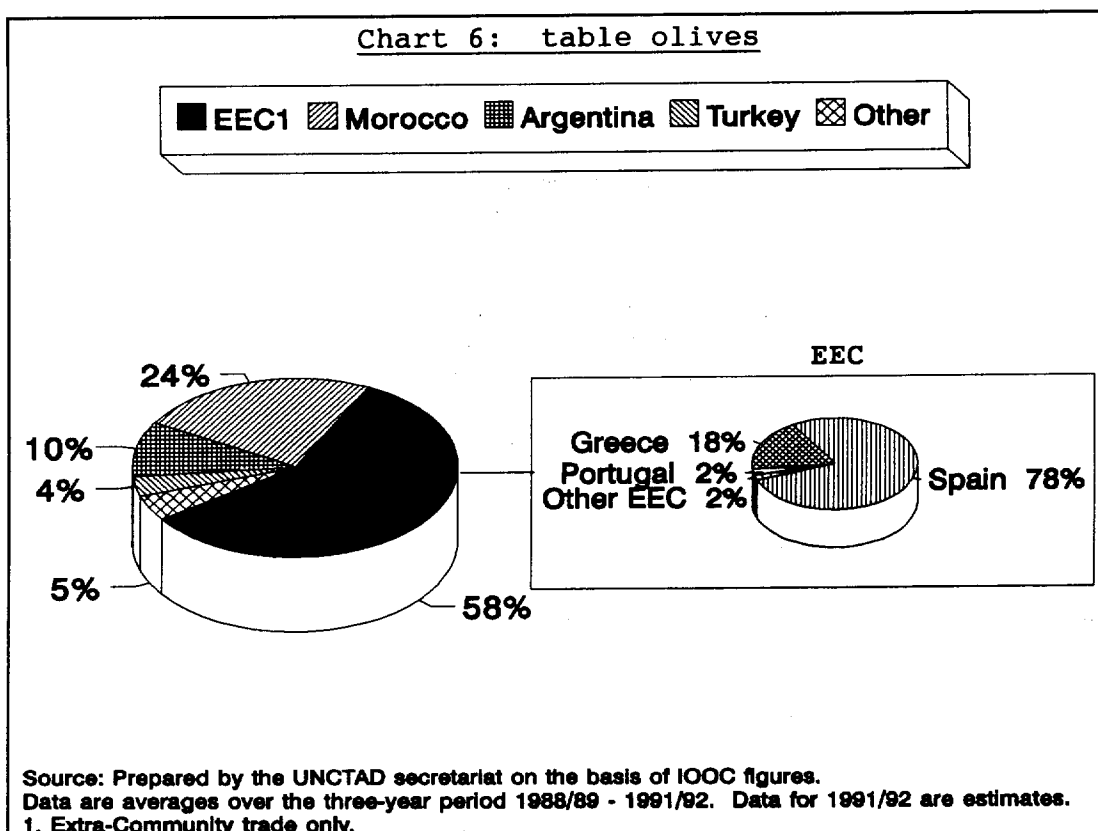
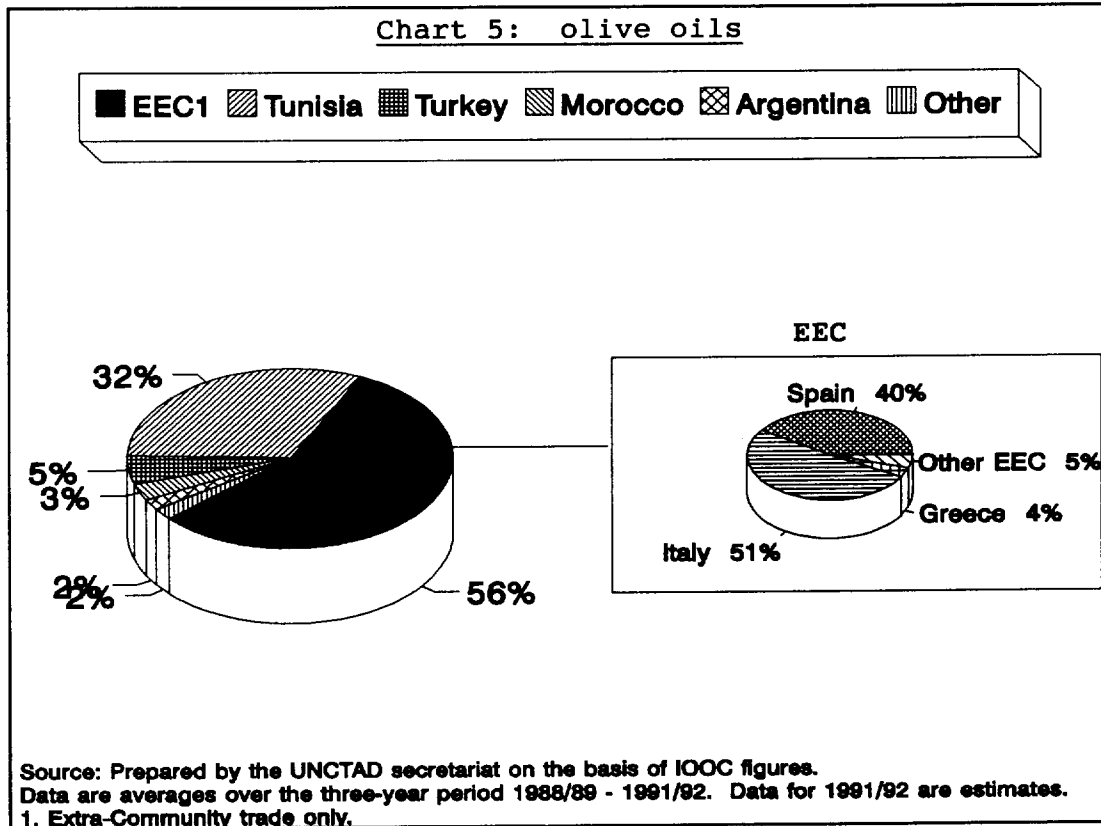
Annex I (continued)

CHARTS 3 AND 4: MAJOR PRODUCERS OF OLIVE OILS AND TABLE OLIVES  
(PERCENTAGE SHARE OF WORLD PRODUCTION)



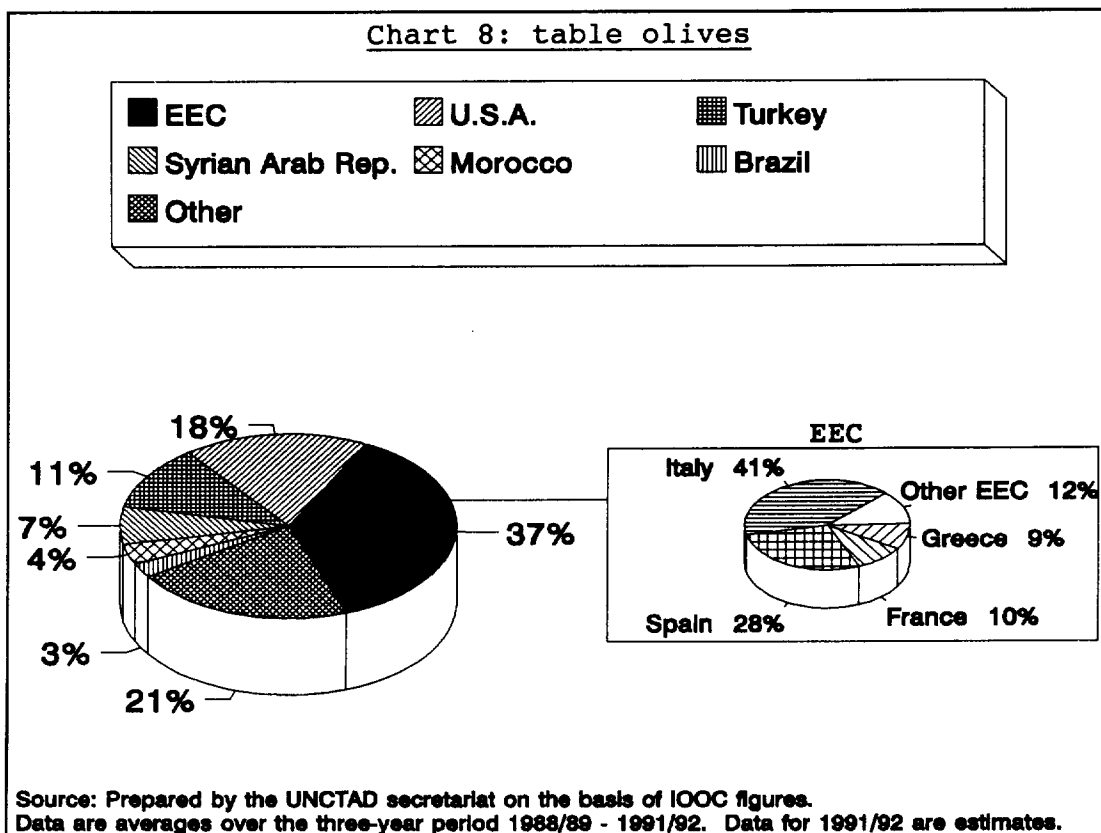
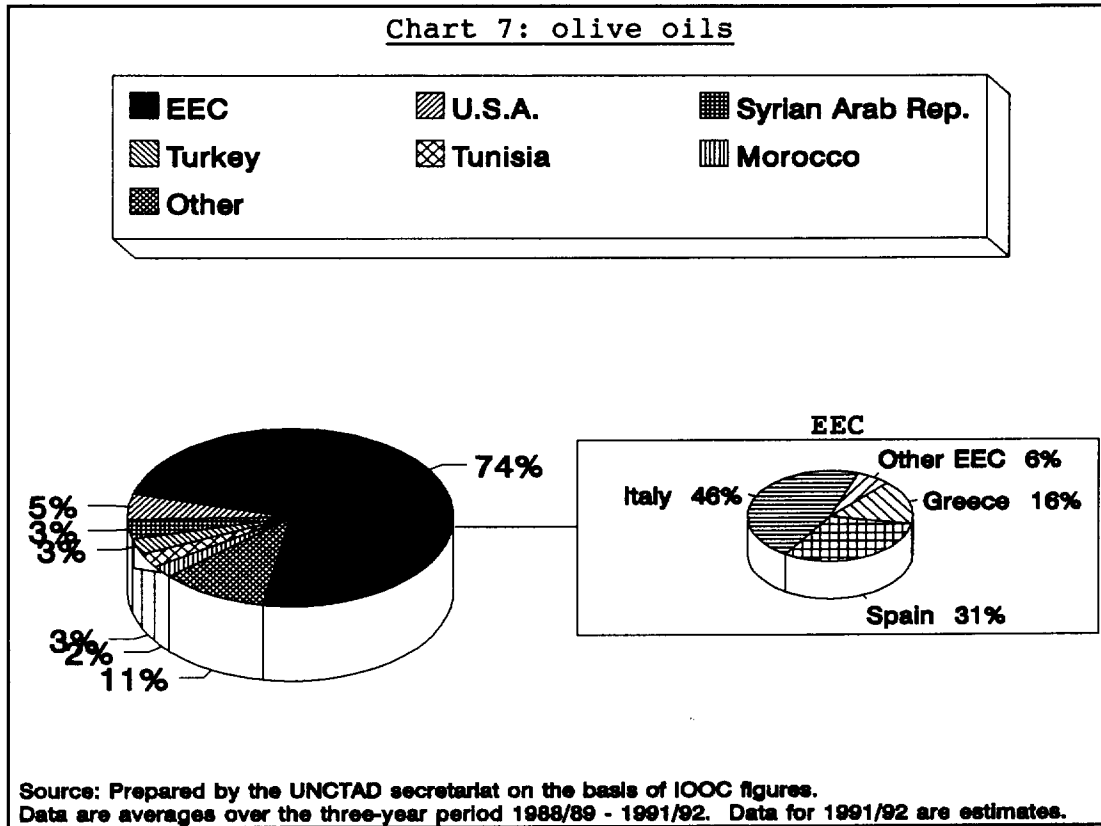
Annex I (continued)

CHARTS 5 AND 6: MAJOR EXPORTERS OF OLIVE OILS AND TABLE OLIVES  
(PERCENTAGE SHARE OF WORLD EXPORTS)



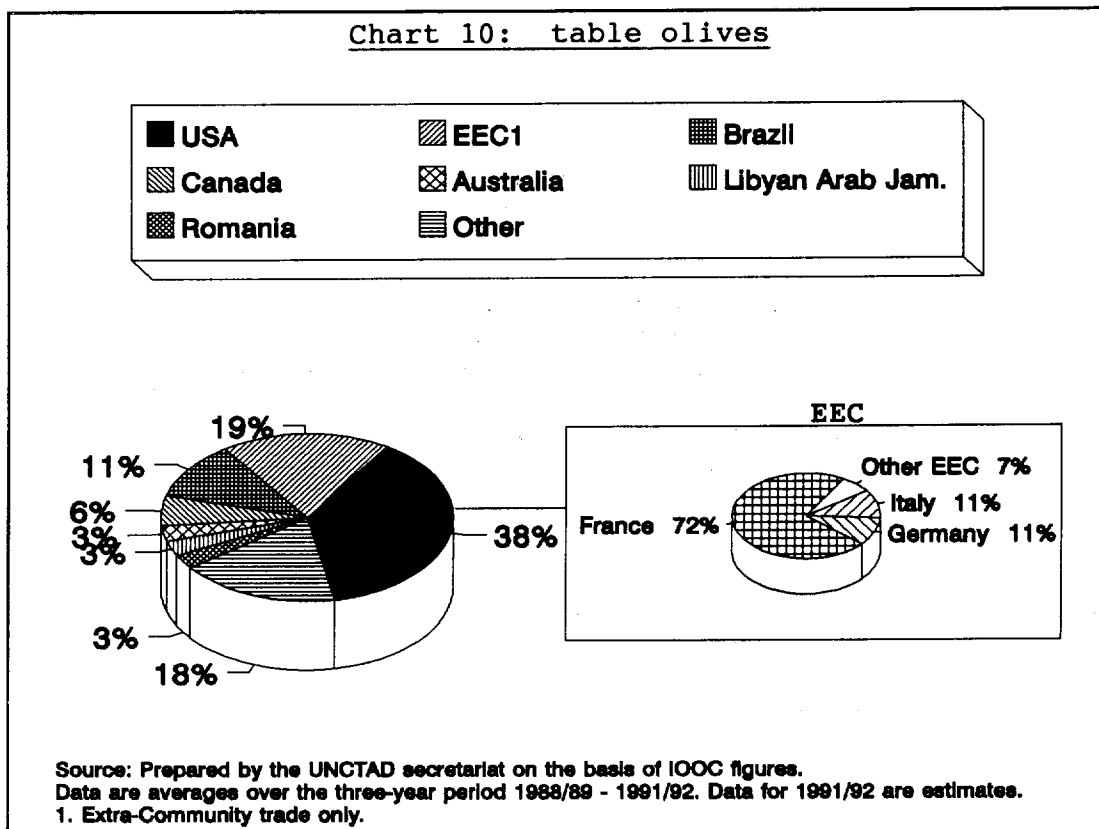
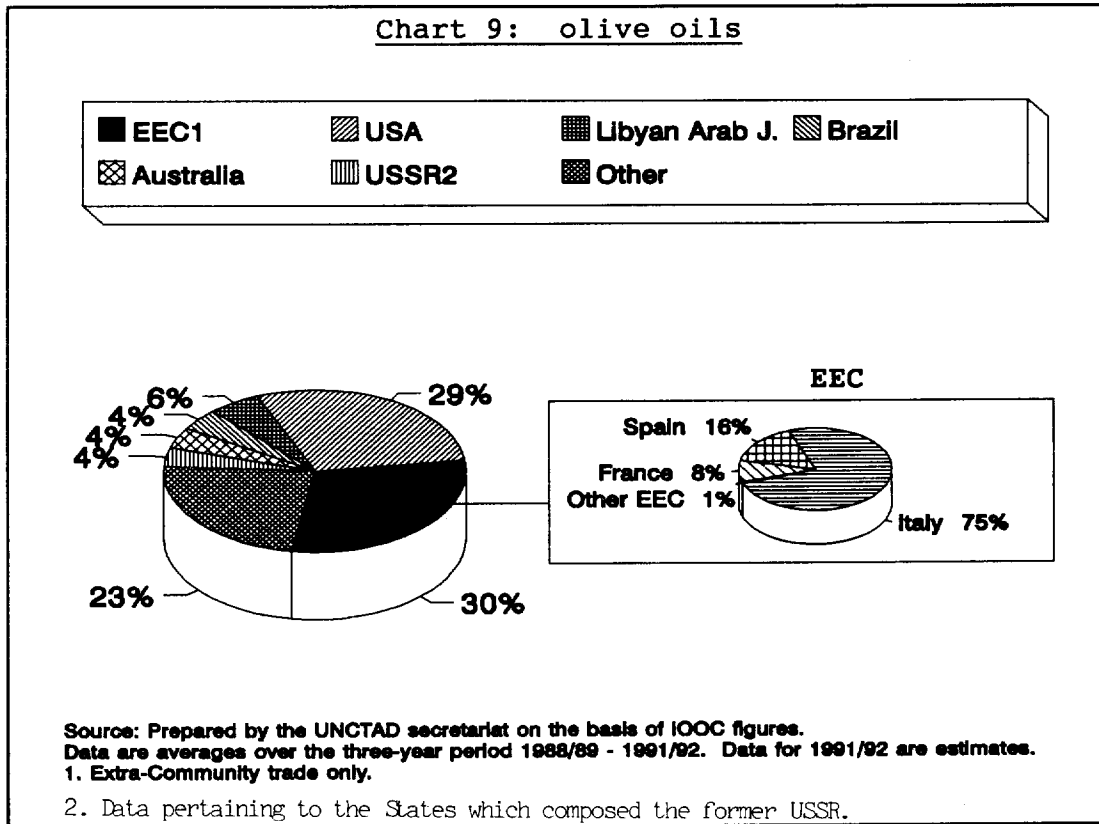
Annex I (continued)

CHARTS 7 AND 8: MAJOR CONSUMERS OF OLIVE OILS AND TABLE OLIVES  
(PERCENTAGE SHARE OF WORLD CONSUMPTION)



Annex I (continued)

CHARTS 9 AND 10: MAJOR IMPORTERS OF OLIVE OILS AND TABLE OLIVES  
(PERCENTAGE SHARE OF WORLD IMPORTS)



Annex II

**WORLD PRODUCTION OF OLIVE OILS**

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (thousand tonnes)	Share of world production (per cent)
1. EEC	1302.5	76.17
2. Tunisia	153.0	8.95
3. Turkey	66.0	3.86
4. Syrian Arab Republic	61.0	3.57
5. Morocco	45.0	2.63
6. Algeria	17.0	0.99
7. Argentina	9.0	0.53
8. Jordan	8.0	0.47
9. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	8.0	0.47
10. Lebanon	6.0	0.35
11. Israel	4.0	0.23
12. Former Yugoslavia	3.5	0.20
13. Mexico	2.5	0.15
14. Cyprus	2.0	0.12
15. Iran, Islamic Rep. of	1.5	0.09
16. United States	1.0	0.06
17. Egypt	0.5	0.03
18. Other	19.5	1.14
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>1589.5</b>	<b>92.95</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>1710.0</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<p>Source: prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures. Each crop year ends on 31 October. Data for 1991/92 are estimates.</p>		

Annex III

WORLD PRODUCTION OF TABLE OLIVES

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (Thousand tonnes)	Share of world production (per cent)
1. EEC	414.5	45.65
2. Turkey	112.5	12.39
3. United States	88.5	9.75
4. Morocco	79.0	8.70
5. Syrian Arab Republic	60.5	6.66
6. Argentina	32.0	3.52
7. Israel	15.5	1.71
8. Egypt	15.0	1.65
9. Peru	14.0	1.54
10. Algeria	11.0	1.21
11. Tunisia	11.0	1.21
12. Mexico	10.5	1.16
13. Jordan	10.0	1.10
14. Chile	7.5	0.83
15. Lebanon	6.5	0.72
16. Cyprus	5.5	0.61
17. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3.0	0.33
18. Australia	2.0	0.22
19. Brazil	1.0	0.11
20. Former Yugoslavia	0.5	0.06
21. Other	8.0	0.88
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>649.0</b>	<b>71.48</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>908.0</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures.  
Each crop year ends on 31 August. Data for 1991/92 are estimates.

Annex IV

**WORLD EXPORTS OF OLIVE OILS**

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (thousand tonnes)	Share of world exports ( per cent)
61. EEC a)	157.0	56.27
2. Tunisia	88.0	31.54
3. Turkey	14.5	5.20
4. Morocco	8.5	3.05
5. Argentina	5.0	1.79
6. United States	2.5	0.90
7. Jordan	1.0	0.36
8. Israel	0.5	0.18
9. Other	2.0	0.72
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>268.0</b>	<b>96.00</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>279.0</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures. Each crop year ends on 31 October. Data for 1991/92 are estimates.  
a) Extra-Community trade only.

**WORLD EXPORTS OF TABLE OLIVES**

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (thousand tonnes)	Share of world exports (per cent)
1. EEC a)	112.0	56.25
2. Morocco	46.5	25.48
3. Argentina	19.0	8.17
4. Turkey	7.0	5.77
5. Israel	2.5	0.96
6. United States	2.5	0.96
7. Chile	1.5	0.72
8. Jordan	1.0	0.48
9. Tunisia	1.0	0.48
10. Mexico	0.5	0.48
11. Other	0.0	0.24
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>166.5</b>	<b>86.05</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>193.5</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures. Each crop year ends on 31 October. Data for 1991/92 are estimates.  
a) Extra-Community trade only.



Annex V

WORLD CONSUMPTION OF OLIVE OILS

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (thousand tonnes)	Share of world consumption (per cent)
1. EEC	1277.5	73.50
2. United States	80.5	4.63
3. Syrian Arab Republic	60.5	3.48
4. Turkey	50.0	2.88
5. Tunisia	45.0	2.59
6. Morocco	38.5	2.22
7. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	25.5	1.47
8. Algeria	15.0	0.86
9. Brazil	12.0	0.69
10. Australia	11.5	0.66
11. Jordan	11.0	0.63
12. USSR a)	10.5	0.60
13. Canada	8.5	0.49
14. Lebanon	7.0	0.40
15. Saudi Arabia	6.0	0.35
16. Former Yugoslavia	6.0	0.35
17. Israel	4.5	0.26
18. Argentina	4.0	0.23
19. Japan	4.0	0.23
20. Mexico	4.0	0.23
21. Switzerland	3.0	0.17
22. Iran, Islamic Rep. of	2.5	0.14
23. Cyprus	2.0	0.12
24. Egypt	1.5	0.09
25. Other	47.5	2.73
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>1435.5</b>	<b>82.59</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>1738.0</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures.  
Each crop year ends on 31 October. Data for 1991/92 are estimates.  
a) Data pertaining to the States which composed the former USSR.

Annex VI

**WORLD CONSUMPTION OF TABLE OLIVES**

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (thousand tonnes)	Share of world consumption (per cent)
1. EEC	334.5	36.92
2. United States	161.0	17.77
3. Turkey	102.5	11.31
4. Syrian Arab Republic	60.5	6.68
5. Morocco	32.5	3.59
6. Brazil	23.0	2.54
7. Egypt	15.5	1.71
8. Argentina	14.5	1.60
9. Peru	14.5	1.60
10. Israel	13.0	1.43
11. Canada	11.5	1.27
12. Mexico	10.5	1.16
13. Tunisia	10.5	1.16
14. Algeria	10.0	1.10
15. Jordan	9.0	0.99
16. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	8.5	0.94
17. Australia	8.0	0.88
18. Lebanon	7.5	0.83
19. Chile	6.0	0.66
20. Cyprus	6.0	0.66
21. Romania	5.5	0.61
22. Bulgaria	4.5	0.50
23. USSR a)	4.0	0.44
24. Switzerland	2.5	0.28
25. Venezuela	2.5	0.28
26. Former Yugoslavia	1.5	0.17
27. Other	26.5	2.92
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>513.0</b>	<b>56.62</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>906.0</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures. Each crop year ends on 31 August. Data for 1991/92 are estimates.  
a) Data pertaining to the States which composed the former USSR.

Annex VII

**WORLD IMPORTS OF OLIVE OILS**

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (thousand tonnes)	Share of world imports (per cent)
1. EEC a)	82.5	29.52
2. United States	82.0	29.34
3. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15.5	5.55
4. Brazil	12.0	4.29
5. Australia	11.5	4.11
6. USSR b)	10.5	3.76
7. Canada	8.5	3.04
8. Saudi Arabia	6.0	2.15
9. Japan	4.0	1.43
10. Jordan	4.0	1.43
11. Switzerland	3.0	1.07
12. Former Yugoslavia	2.0	0.72
13. Mexico	1.5	0.54
14. Lebanon	1.0	0.36
15. Iran, Islamic Rep. of	1.0	0.36
16. Israel	1.0	0.36
17. Egypt	1.0	0.36
18. Turkey	0.5	0.18
19. Other	32.0	11.45
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>30.77</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>279.5</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<p>Source: prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures. Each crop year ends on 31 October. Data for 1991/92 are estimates. a) Extra-community trade only. b) Data pertaining to the States which composed the former USSR.</p>		

Annex VIII

**WORLD IMPORTS OF TABLE OLIVES**

	Average Three-year period 1988/89 - 1991/92 (thousand tonnes)	Share of world imports (per cent)
1. United States	75.5	37.84
2. EEC a)	37.5	18.80
3. Brazil	22.0	11.03
4. Canada	11.5	5.76
5. Australia	6.0	3.01
6. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	6.0	3.01
7. Romania	5.5	2.76
8. Bulgaria	4.5	2.26
9. USSR b)	4.0	2.01
10. Switzerland	2.5	1.25
11. Venezuela	2.5	1.25
12. Lebanon	1.0	0.50
13. Former Yugoslavia	1.0	0.50
14. Chile	0.5	0.25
15. Cyprus	0.5	0.25
16. Egypt	0.5	0.25
17. Jordan	0.5	0.25
18. Other	18.0	9.02
<b>Total for IOOC members</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>19.8</b>
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<p>Source: prepared by the UNCTAD Secretariat on the basis of IOOC figures. Each crop year ends on 31 August. Data for 1991/92 are estimates. a) Extra-Community trade only. b) Data pertaining to the States which composed the former USSR.</p>		