

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRESHFEL EUROPE UNVEILS NORTHERN HEMISPHERE CITRUS PRODUCTION FORECASTS

The citrus production in the Northern Hemisphere countries (the Mediterranean basin and the USA) should reach 21,9 million tonnes, an increase of 0,5% compared to last year. This data is part of the effort undertaken by Freshfel Europe together with SHAFPE to improve the transparency of information available for the fresh produce sector.

The **production** in the Mediterranean basin should reach this year 17,4 million tonnes. Spain is expecting a 20% decrease in its citrus production, which will fall to 5,4 million tonnes, while Morocco and Israel are both predicting a 1% decrease. On the contrary, production increases are expected in Turkey (9%), Egypt (5%), Greece (8%) and Cyprus (3%). Italy is set to experience a recovery of production, back to levels registered in the 2007/2008 season, which is 36% above the production for last season. On the other side of the Atlantic, US production is expected to increase by 2%, and total citrus production should be just under 4,5 million tonnes

Looking by category, **orange** production is forecast to be 0,9% up on last season, however with a 1,2% decrease in the Mediterranean Basin. This is due to a fall in production in Spain (-27%), Israel (-19%) and Morocco (-10%). Production in Italy is forecast to be 53% up on last season, making a full recovery, with Egypt also expected to be 5% up. Orange production in the USA is set to increase by 11%. **Easy peeler** production is expected to be 1,5% up overall due to the increase in 15% from the USA. Production levels in the Mediterranean Basin are expected to remain constant overall, with Italy (33%), Israel (15%) and Morocco (7%) registering the largest increases, whilst Spain (-9%) and Turkey (-8%) are set to decrease production. In so far as **lemons** are concerned, production is forecast to fall by 1,3% overall, with the USA registering a 10% decrease whilst the Mediterranean Basin increases by 1,6%. Spain is the only Mediterranean country to predict a decrease in production (-20%), whilst Morocco (79%), Turkey (33%), Greece (31%) and Israel (22%) have all registered significant increases. Finally, **grapefruit** production is expected to decrease by 1,2% in total, due mainly to a fall of 9% in US production. Production in the Mediterranean Basin is predicted to rise by 18%, with the most significant increase being Turkey with 50% more fruit. Spain (-15%) and Israel (-2%) are expected to decrease production.

Initial **export** forecasts show Italy making a strong recovery with a predicted 35% increase overall on last season, driven by an 82% increase for oranges and a 16% increase for easy peelers. Turkey is also expected to increase exports by 12% this season, with 57% more lemons and 13% more grapefruits. Easy peeler exports are expected to decrease by 8%, while orange exports are predicted to be unchanged. Spanish export volumes are forecast to decrease by only 1% despite the significant decrease in production, with grapefruit and easy peeler exports remaining constant, whilst oranges (-1%) and lemons (-4%) will contract slightly. Israel is set to increase exports by 4% overall, with 15% more easy peelers, 3% more grapefruits and 15% less lemons. Morocco is expected to register the largest decrease in exports, with an 18% decrease across all categories. Orange exports are expected to decrease by 29%, easy peelers by 7%, whilst grapefruit and lemon exports are set to fall by 54% in total.

TOTAL CITRUS	Production 2007/2008	Production 2008/2009	Prod. Forecast 2009/2010	Variation (08/09)/(09/10)
<i>SPAIN</i>	5.334.228	6.743.011	5.400.746	-20%
<i>CYPRUS</i>	136.600	109.200	112.000	3%
<i>ITALY</i>	3.542.800	2.682.920	3.652.120	36%
<i>GREECE</i>	1.049.210	897.500	969.000	8%
<i>MOROCCO</i>	1.239.000	1.360.000	1.350.000	-1%
<i>TURKEY</i>	2.413.000	2.500.000	2.723.000	9%
<i>EGYPT</i>	2.795.000	2.515.500	2.645.000	5%
<i>ISRAEL</i>	547.000	568.000	560.000	-1%
TOTAL MED BASIN	17.056.838	17.376.131	17.411.866	0,2%
<i>USA</i>	4.810.914	4.405.400	4.483.250	2%
TOTAL	21.867.752	21.781.531	21.895.116	0,5%

ORANGES	Production 2007/2008	Production 2008/2009	Prod. Forecast 2009/2010	Variation (08/09)/(09/10)
<i>SPAIN</i>	2.705.000	3.462.571	2.528.273	-27%
<i>CYPRUS</i>	29.200	23.360	24.000	3%
<i>ITALY</i>	2.293.500	1.500.000	2.293.500	53%
<i>GREECE</i>	930.500	802.000	860.000	7%
<i>MOROCCO</i>	732.400	790.000	710.000	-10%
<i>TURKEY</i>	1.173.000	1.173.000	1.173.000	0%
<i>EGYPT</i>	1.800.000	1.620.000	1.700.000	5%
<i>ISRAEL</i>	115.000	173.000	140.000	-19%
TOTAL MED BASIN	9.778.600	9.543.931	9.428.773	-1,2%
<i>USA</i>	2.316.864	1.927.170	2.142.950	11%
TOTAL	12.095.464	11.471.101	11.571.723	0,9%

EASY PEELERS	Production 2007/2008	Production 2008/2009	Prod. Forecast 2009/2010	Variation (08/09)/(09/10)
<i>SPAIN</i>	2.040.000	2.229.626	2.029.473	-9%
<i>CYPRUS</i>	61.300	49.040	50.000	2%
<i>ITALY</i>	702.700	527.000	702.700	33%
<i>GREECE</i>	64.910	58.500	62.000	6%
<i>MOROCCO</i>	471.600	531.000	570.000	7%
<i>TURKEY</i>	495.000	600.000	550.000	-8%
<i>EGYPT</i>	660.000	594.000	625.000	5%
<i>ISRAEL</i>	133.000	130.000	150.000	15%
TOTAL MED BASIN	4.628.510	4.719.166	4.739.173	0%
<i>USA</i>	431.820	403.180	462.160	15%
TOTAL	5.060.330	5.122.346	5.201.333	1,5%

LEMONS	Production 2007/2008	Production 2008/2009	Prod. Forecast 2009/2010	Variation (08/09)/(09/10)
SPAIN	543.034	1.000.000	800.000	-20%
CYPRUS	17.500	14.000	15.000	7%
ITALY	546.600	655.920	655.920	0%
GREECE	46.500	30.500	40.000	31%
MOROCCO (Other citrus)	35.000	39.000	70.000	79%
TURKEY	500.000	527.000	700.000	33%
EGYPT	335.000	301.500	320.000	6%
ISRAEL	64.000	45.000	55.000	22%
TOTAL MED BASIN	2.087.634	2.612.920	2.655.920	1,6%
USA	639.090	866.640	777.270	-10%
TOTAL	2.726.724	3.479.560	3.433.190	-1,3%

GRAPEFRUIT	Production 2007/2008	Production 2008/2009	Prod. Forecast 2009/2010	Variation (08/09)/(09/10)
SPAIN	46.194	50.814	43.000	-15%
CYPRUS	28.600	22.800	23.000	1%
ITALY	0	0	0	
GREECE	7.300	6.500	7.000	8%
MOROCCO	0	0	0	
TURKEY	245.000	200.000	300.000	50%
EGYPT	0	0	0	
ISRAEL	235.000	220.000	215.000	-2%
TOTAL MED BASIN	562.094	500.114	588.000	18%
USA	1.423.140	1.208.410	1.100.870	-9%
TOTAL	1.985.234	1.708.524	1.688.870	-1,2%

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Note to the Editors: Freshfel Europe is the European Fresh Produce Association, representing the interests of importers, exporters, wholesalers and distributors, and retailers of fresh fruits and vegetables in Europe and beyond. Freshfel Europe currently has over 200 members, including both companies and associations. For more information, contact the association at info@freshfel.org or visit the association website www.freshfel.org.