

19<sup>th</sup> February 2009

## MINUTES FOR FRESHFEL/SHAFFE CITRUS MEETING OF 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

### Introduction:

- Participants at the meeting were thanked for their attendance, and were asked to present themselves.
- An antitrust declaration was made to remind those present that the discussion will by no means involve matters or topics which could influence market prices or volumes and that the exchange of data and information is strictly limited to matters which do not interfere with competition or anti-trust legislation.
- Representative from the Commission are welcomed by the chair and secretariat. The importance of a close relationship between the public and private sectors is stressed in order to have good market analysis and avoid some of the problems seen on the citrus market in the past.
- The agenda for the meeting was confirmed with no comments from those present.
- A list of participants can be found in the Annex.

### Presentation of Global Citrus Committee:

- An outline of the Global Citrus Committee (an initiative of the Freshfel Citrus WG in coordination with SHAFFE) is presented by José Antonio Garcia.
- The presentation outlines the structure, aims and objectives, working basis and timetable for meetings of the group.
- The need to create a global citrus committee is highlighted, global from a geographical perspective as well as from a supply-chain perspective. Such a group could improve the transparency among the world citrus community.
- Delegates are reminded of the working basis, which is structured around teleconferences (TC) and physical meeting (PM) on the following basis:

Date	Specific Topic	Type
September	Preliminary NH forecast / SH Ending Season	TC
October	NH Forecast / SH Balance	TC
December	NH on going season	TC
February	Preliminary SH Forecast ± Development NH	PM
April	SH Forecast / NH Ending Situation	TC
July	SH on going season	TC

- Other topics could also be addressed by the group such as marketing and promotion initiative, plant health (CBS, citrus greening, citrus canker,..)



have seen normal crops & good sizes for oranges and soft citrus. Land reforms have been a disaster with much land going to waste. More demand has been seen from Eastern markets.

- **Argentina:** Grapefruit had a poor season as in most countries, which has seen growers grubbing up trees in favour of easy peelers. Some sizing problems are anticipated for oranges this year. The weather conditions have been opposite to last year, with lots of rain in the north-east giving good sizing for navels. Growers are focusing on quality rather than quantity. Costs are increasing thanks to the fixed exchange rate with the US dollar.
- **Uruguay:** The EU took 80% of exports last season, followed by Russia. Exports were 130.000T up to the end of November. The season ended up with better results than previously expected for most varieties. Labour costs have increased substantially and freight costs are increasing by more than 40 %. Special emphasis has been made to the residue issue.
- **Chile:** The opening of US market for navels saw much less oranges coming to the EU last season, with only 3.400T (9% of production) compared to 37.000T (60% of production) the previous year. Less than 5% of clementine production was shipped to the EU, with most fruit going to the US and Japan. Over 50% of total citrus production will go to the US this year. The dry summer in Chile will see a delay in ripening by around 15 days. The lack of lemons on the domestic market will see exports start later.

**Peru:** Last season saw a significant fall in production by around 30% after the warm spring affected fruit blossoming. There was a fall in exports of all varieties, but particularly navels to the EU and US. )RU WKH IRUWKFRPLQJ VHDV RQ D SKHQRPHQDO ³HO QLxR´ LV recovered and are expected to rise back to 2008 levels after being one of the most affected varieties in 2009. More minneola crops are increasing production. Exports of fortunatas are expected to increase significantly. Exports are expected to be shared between the US (1/4), the EU (1/2), Canada and Scandinavia (remaining 1/4).

#### Other Issues:

- **Global Citrus Conference:** This is taking place on 8-9 July 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa. More information is available from: <http://www.gcc2010.co.za/>
- **Spanish Lemon Exporters Standard Certification:** A presentation was made by José Antonio Garcia of the new certification scheme undertaken by Ailimpo to ensure quality and real traceability of Spanish lemon exports. So far approximately 20 companies have signed up for the certification. More information is available from: <http://www.ailimpo.com/index.htm>
- **Calendar of 2010 activities:** The proposal is to keep the calendar the same as for 2009.
  - April teleconference: SH forecast/NH season ending
  - June/July teleconference: SH season development
  - Late September teleconference: Preliminary NH forecast/SH season ending
  - December teleconference: NH ongoing season

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