



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FRESHFEL EUROPE (IN COOPERATION WITH SHAFFE) UNVEILS MEDITERRANEAN BASIN CITRUS PRODUCTION FORECASTS

**The 2011/2012 citrus production in the Mediterranean basin should reach a total of 18,4 million tonnes, approximately the same level as the last season. While the production among EU Mediterranean countries will decrease by 5%, the other Southern Mediterranean countries are heading for a production increase by 6%. This data is part of the efforts undertaken by Freshfel Europe's Citrus Working Group which together with SHAFFE aims at improving transparency of information available for the fresh citrus sector globally.**

Based on information available early October, Freshfel Europe released this week the **citrus production** forecast for the Mediterranean basin. Production should reach this year 18,4 million tonnes, a global figure similar to last year, but which witness some significant variations with regard to producing countries and products. Spain as a leading producing country will experience a production decrease by 11% after the peak level reached last year. Spanish production is expected to stand at 5,5 million tonnes. Greece and Cyprus are also both predicting a decrease by 19% and 4% respectively. However, Italy expects an increase by 8%. Other Mediterranean countries outside the EU are expecting production increases, with estimations from Turkey and Israel reaching 11% up in comparison to the previous year, while Morocco expects an increased production by 5%. Philippe Binard, General Delegate of Freshfel, commented: *"This data was compiled still at a relatively early stage of the season. Climatic conditions in October and onwards, level of rains, etc. could still influence the final level of production and fruit size. We have however to lament that in these joined efforts of the international citrus community it remains difficult to get reliable data from Egypt despite the relevance of the citrus sector in that particular country."*

Looking at details by citrus category, **orange** production is forecast to be 2% up on last season in the Mediterranean basin. This is mainly due to an increase in production in the non-EU Mediterranean countries (+8%), while the EU countries are expecting a decrease by 2%. Only Italy is among the EU countries forecasting a production increase (+18% up on last season), while Spain (-10%) and Greece (-23%) are predicting a decrease and Cyprus looks for a similar level of production. In contrast to this development, Turkey (+10%), Morocco (+12%) and Israel (+97%) are forecasting a production increase compared to last year. In regard to fresh exports, around 3.280.000 T should be marketed compared to 3.320.000 T last year.

**Easy peeler** production in the Mediterranean region is expected to be 8% down at 4,9 million tonnes due to a production decrease in nearly all countries. Production levels in Greece are expected to remain constant overall, with decreases announced in Spain (-13%), Italy (-9%), Cyprus (-7%), Morocco (-2%) and Turkey (-15%), while just Israel is reporting an increase (+22%). As a consequence, total fresh exports are expected to be at 2.575.000 T compared to more than 2.708.000 T last year.

With regard to **lemons**, production in the Mediterranean is forecast to rise by 6% overall. It is characterised through again a rather low EU Mediterranean output with a decrease in Spain (-7%), a constant crop in Italy compared to an average crop and increases on small volume levels in Greece and Cyprus. However, with increases in Turkey

(+25%) and Israel (+26%) and a constant production in Morocco the overall Mediterranean outlook is shortly above 3 million T. It is expected that fresh exports will reach 1.050.000 T, an increase of 50.000 T to last year.

Finally, **grapefruit** production in the Mediterranean basin is expected to increase by 24% in total, due mainly to a sharp rise of 40% in Turkey's production and by 12% in Israel's production. Only Cyprus is expecting a decrease in production (-12%). Overall, grapefruit exports should be slightly above 300.000 T.

*"The citrus campaign is starting on a complex and competitive environment resulting from the market crisis and pressure on price by retailers and discounters to secure the best quality at the lowest price for consumers. Over the summer months, the market was tense for products like peaches, nectarines, melons, table grapes but also oranges and grapefruit, without forgetting several vegetables still struggling to restore image and consumer confidence after the dramatic EHEC crisis" commented Philippe Binard. "Under these circumstances, the sector should be united to pool actions for reinforcing the image of fresh produce and stimulating the consumption of healthy fruit and vegetables."*

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**Note to the Editors:** Freshfel Europe is the European Fresh Produce Association, representing the interests of the fresh fruit and vegetables supply chain 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](mailto:info@freshfel.org) or visit the association website [www.freshfel.org](http://www.freshfel.org)

<b>ORANGES</b>	<b>Production</b> <b>2007/2008</b>	<b>Production</b> <b>2008/2009</b>	<b>Production</b> <b>2009/2010</b>	<b>Production</b> <b>2010/2011</b>	<b>Prod. Forecast</b> <b>2011/2012</b>	<b>Variation</b> <b>(10/11)/(11/12)</b>
SPAIN	2.705.000	3.462.571	2.756.042	2.997.000	2.685.000	-10%
CYPRUS	29.200	23.360	24.000	24.000	24.000	0%
ITALY	2.293.500	1.500.000	2.293.500	1.950.000	2.300.000	18%
GREECE	930.500	802.000	860.000	685.000	525.000	-23%
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES</b>	<b>5.958.200</b>	<b>5.787.931</b>	<b>5.933.542</b>	<b>5.656.000</b>	<b>5.534.000</b>	<b>-2%</b>
MOROCCO	732.400	790.000	710.000	875.000	976.000	12%
TURKEY	1.173.000	1.230.000	1.230.000	1.260.000	1.386.000	10%
EGYPT	1.800.000	1.620.000	1.700.000	1.700.000	1.700.000	0%
ISRAEL	115.000	173.000	140.000	73.500	145.000	97%
<b>TOTAL OTHER MED COUNTRIES</b>	<b>3.820.400</b>	<b>3.813.000</b>	<b>3.780.000</b>	<b>3.908.500</b>	<b>4.207.000</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>TOTAL MED BASIN</b>	<b>9.778.600</b>	<b>9.600.931</b>	<b>9.713.542</b>	<b>9.564.500</b>	<b>9.741.000</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>EASY PEELERS</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>Variation</b>
SPAIN	2.040.000	2.229.626	2.021.023	2.197.000	1.914.000	-13%
CYPRUS	61.300	49.040	50.000	55.000	51.000	-7%
ITALY	702.700	527.000	702.700	850.000	770.000	-9%
GREECE	64.910	58.500	62.000	100.000	100.000	0%
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES</b>	<b>2.868.910</b>	<b>2.864.166</b>	<b>2.835.723</b>	<b>3.202.000</b>	<b>2.835.000</b>	<b>-11%</b>
MOROCCO	471.600	531.000	570.000	781.000	763.000	-2%
TURKEY	495.000	650.000	500.000	687.500	584.375	-15%
EGYPT	660.000	594.000	625.000	625.000	625.000	0%
ISRAEL	133.000	130.000	150.000	135.000	165.000	22%
<b>TOTAL OTHER MED COUNTRIES</b>	<b>1.759.600</b>	<b>1.905.000</b>	<b>1.845.000</b>	<b>2.228.500</b>	<b>2.137.375</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>TOTAL MED BASIN</b>	<b>4.628.510</b>	<b>4.769.166</b>	<b>4.680.723</b>	<b>5.430.500</b>	<b>4.972.375</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>LEMONS</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>Variation</b>
SPAIN	552.192	945.562	673.075	930.512	870.000	-7%
CYPRUS	17.500	14.000	15.000	16.500	18.300	11%
ITALY	546.600	655.920	655.920	650.000	650.000	0%
GREECE	46.500	30.500	40.000	25.000	30.000	20%
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES</b>	<b>1.162.792</b>	<b>1.645.982</b>	<b>1.383.995</b>	<b>1.622.012</b>	<b>1.568.300</b>	<b>-3%</b>
MOROCCO (Other citr)	35.000	39.000	40.000	80.000	80.000	0%
TURKEY	500.000	550.000	750.000	860.000	1.075.000	25%
EGYPT	335.000	301.500	320.000	320.000	320.000	0%
ISRAEL	64.000	45.000	55.000	43.500	55.000	26%
<b>TOTAL OTHER MED COUNTRIES</b>	<b>934.000</b>	<b>935.500</b>	<b>1.165.000</b>	<b>1.303.500</b>	<b>1.530.000</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>TOTAL MED BASIN</b>	<b>2.096.792</b>	<b>2.581.482</b>	<b>2.548.995</b>	<b>2.925.512</b>	<b>3.098.300</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>GRAPEFRUITS</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>Variation</b>
SPAIN	46.194	50.814	52.000	53.070	56.000	6%
CYPRUS	28.600	22.800	23.000	23.000	20.200	-12%
ITALY	0	0	0	0	0	-
GREECE	7.300	6.500	7.000	1.000	1.000	0%
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES</b>	<b>82.094</b>	<b>80.114</b>	<b>82.000</b>	<b>77.070</b>	<b>77.200</b>	<b>0%</b>
MOROCCO	0	0	0	0	0	-
TURKEY	245.000	170.000	300.000	270.000	378.000	40%
EGYPT	0	0	0	0	0	-
ISRAEL	235.000	220.000	215.000	188.000	210.000	12%
<b>TOTAL OTHER MED COUNTRIES</b>	<b>480.000</b>	<b>390.000</b>	<b>515.000</b>	<b>458.000</b>	<b>588.000</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>TOTAL MED BASIN</b>	<b>562.094</b>	<b>470.114</b>	<b>597.000</b>	<b>535.070</b>	<b>665.200</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>TOTAL CITRUS</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>Variation</b>
SPAIN	5.343.386	6.688.573	5.502.140	6.177.582	5.525.000	-11%
CYPRUS	136.600	109.200	112.000	118.500	113.500	-4%
ITALY	3.542.800	2.682.920	3.652.120	3.450.000	3.720.000	8%
GREECE	1.049.210	897.500	969.000	811.000	656.000	-19%
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES</b>	<b>10.071.996</b>	<b>10.378.193</b>	<b>10.235.260</b>	<b>10.557.082</b>	<b>10.014.500</b>	<b>-5%</b>
MOROCCO	1.239.000	1.360.000	1.320.000	1.736.000	1.819.000	5%
TURKEY	2.413.000	2.600.000	2.780.000	3.077.500	3.423.375	11%
EGYPT	2.795.000	2.515.000	2.645.000	2.645.000	2.645.000	0%
ISRAEL	547.000	568.000	580.000	520.000	575.000	11%
<b>TOTAL OTHER MED COUNTRIES</b>	<b>6.994.000</b>	<b>7.043.500</b>	<b>7.325.000</b>	<b>7.978.500</b>	<b>8.462.375</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>TOTAL MED BASIN</b>	<b>17.065.996</b>	<b>17.421.693</b>	<b>17.560.260</b>	<b>18.535.582</b>	<b>18.476.875</b>	<b>0%</b>