



Córdoba, 21<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## **RECOMED STATEMENT TO ASSIGN THE LETTER “A” TO VIRGIN OLIVE OILS IN THE NUTRI-SCORE SYSTEM**

One of the tools of public health policies to propose healthy diets is nutritional labeling, among them a frontal nutritional labeling known as **FOPL** (Front-Of-Pack labelling) can be used, in order to facilitate the use and understanding of the nutritional information by the consumers.

In Europe the **Nutri Score** stands out, a system created and adopted in France but which has already been adopted by Belgium or Switzerland while it is being installed in Germany, the Netherlands or Spain.

Nutri Score consists of a graphical system that uses a code of five letters and five colors (from A to E, and from dark green to dark orange) to inform consumers of nutritional quality (from best to worst). The classification in one or another category is carried out taking into account the result of the calculation of an algorithm, defined on the basis of public health. **Well, the Nutri Score classifies olive oils in category C (yellow).**

The health benefits of virgin olive oils are well known and scientifically documented due to their favorable composition of fatty acids (where monounsaturated ones stand out) and their high content of natural antioxidants (such as polyphenols). Thus, its consumption has been recognized by the **EFSA** (European Food Security Agency), which authorizes the inclusion in the labeling of three healthy claims related to the reduction of the risk of cardiovascular diseases, the reduction of oxidative stress and a source of vitamin D.

Due to all the above, in the olive oil sector we are extraordinarily alarmed since the Nutri Score qualifies olive oil in an absolutely wrong way, classifying it with category C (yellow) at the same level as rapeseed or walnut oil.

This classification is a conscious misinformation to the European consumer.

Thus, **THE RECOMED PARTNER COUNTRIES REQUEST the European authorities to modify this erroneous and unfair qualification and to assign the A (dark green) classification for "extra virgin" and "virgin olive oil" olive oils.**

**This is also the case for the rest of the FOPL classifications of the rest of the Mediterranean countries of Recomed**