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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.8.2026)

1. The Commission does not share the view on the existence of a monopoly for olive oil. The EU olive sector is structured through hundreds of companies with different market strategies and quality orientation, from big operators and agricultural cooperatives to small producers. Olive oil is sold in a wide variety of outlets: modern retail, gourmet shops, e-sales or directly from farmers to consumers.

Imports of olive oil amounted to 180 000 tonnes for the campaign 2024/25, of which 68% were re-exported to third countries. Portugal imported 4 500 tonnes in that period. Origin labelling is mandatory for extra virgin olive oil and the labelling of non-EU products as EU is forbidden and can constitute a case of food fraud.

2. The current system ensures traceability of products placed on the market, in line with EU law. Main olive oil producing Member States already have, or are developing, full traceability systems, ensuring a high level of control. Yet, the Commission remains committed to improving traceability and supports Member States to develop and harmonise registers for olive oil movements, while recognising the administrative burden involved.

3. The EU has a comprehensive customs framework to register imported goods and provide reliable statistics. Customs authorities record import declarations electronically and collect harmonised data used both for controls and production of trade statistics, including those published by Eurostat. The reform of the Customs Union would further strengthen these capacities through the creation of an EU Customs Data Hub¹. Customs data are also used for risk analysis and the fight against fraud identifying suspicious trade flows and possible circumvention patterns.

¹ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs/eu-customs-reform_en.