

PRESS RELEASE

Cork Harvesting Campaign 2023

FILCORK - Associação Interprofissional da Fileira da Cortiça (Interprofessional Association of the Cork Industry), hereby informs economic operators of the obtained results and main conclusions regarding the 2023 cork harvesting campaign:

- ✓ The 2023 cork harvesting season took place positively, within and extended time window and without phenomena that impacted its normal course;
- ✓ Cork production is estimated to have reached around 5.0 million arrobas in Portugal and 2.5 million arrobas in Spain, which totalizes 7.5 million arrobas (112,500 tons) (around 30% more than in 2022 campaign);
- ✓ Only occasionally and with no significant impact, some mature cork remains unextracted and was postponed for the 2024 cork harvesting campaign;
- ✓ The available cork quantity in the 2023 campaign made it possible to reestablish industrial stock levels, ensuring stability and tranquillity for the next industrial working year;
- ✓ The 2023 cork campaign registered an increase in the average price of around 20%, a continuation of the price range between different cork and therefore a tendency of valuation of cork destined to granulate;
- ✓ The extraction price in 2023 increased significantly, maintaining the trend of recent years, impacted by the inflation and the appreciation of average salaries;
- ✓ In this campaign the use of the extraction machine was already significant, a clear sign that the new technologies, with ongoing improvements, will be a consolidated technology in the future;
- ✓ The campaign ends in a business context where the most recent data regarding exports in the sector show that we have entered a period of some contraction in demand due to the current international economic situation and a slowdown in wine consumption, resulting in some reduction in the quantities exported while maintaining the overall value of exports;

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✓ There is a need for greater economic and social recognition of the environmental functions of the Montado, a unique ecosystem of cork oak forests, highlighting its important role in combating desertification and providing ecosystem services, as well as its positive impact on adapting to and mitigating climate change;

✓ More than ever, it is clear that the role of the cork industry must be strengthened due to its characteristics of sustainability in all dimensions, as well as an example of a circular economic model, being an important sector for Portugal's positioning in the world both in positive differentiation and added value and for our country.

Coruche, October 11th 2023

Note to editors:

Filcork - Associação Interprofissional da Fileira da Cortiça – is the first interprofessional association in the forest sector in Portugal, officially recognized through *Despacho n.º 24543/2008, Diário da República, 2.ª série N.º 190 - 1 de Outubro de 2008*, Recognition charter at October 22th 2008.

Filcork constitution:

- Production stage:
 - ACHAR - Associação de Agricultores da Charneca (Chamusca);
 - AFLOBEI - Associação de Produtores Florestais da Beira Interior;
 - AFLOSOR - Associação de Produtores Florestais da Região de Ponte de Sor;
 - ANSUB - Associação de Produtores Florestais do Vale do Sado;
 - APFC - Associação de Produtores Florestais do Concelho de Coruche;
 - SUBERÉVORA - Associação de Produtores Florestais da Região de Évora;
- Transformation stage:
 - APCOR - Associação Portuguesa da Cortiça.

FILCORK model of participation ensures equal presence between the stages of production and transformation, being an organization dedicated to the problems of the sector as a whole, constituting a credible and effective institutional interlocutor in the defence of the cork interests.

For further information:

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