

IOOC KOTINOS 2026

International Olive Oil Competition

Final Date for Sample Submission	Monday, 02 March 2026
Participation Fee – Group A	180,00€ + VAT (first sample) 150,00€ + VAT (each additional sample)
Participation Fee – Group B	150,00€ + VAT (first sample) 120,00€ + VAT (each additional sample)
Early Bird Fees (payments until 13/02/2026)	GROUP A: 150,00 € + VAT GROUP B: 120,00 € + VAT
Sample Shipping Address	FILAIOS CLUB Solonos 20, 17674 Kallithea, Attica, Greece Tel.: +30 210 3248567 E-mail: gram@filaios.org

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

A. PURPOSES – OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

With the aim of highlighting, promoting, and disseminating the high quality of extra virgin olive oils, the Scientific Club of Friends of Olive Oil and Olive Tree “FILAIOS” organizes once again, continuing its historic course that began 16 years ago within the framework of the Mediterranean Olive & Olive Oil Exhibition “ELAIO TECHNIA 2009”, the **International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Quality Competition “KOTINOS 2026”**.

The main objectives of the Competition are:

- a)** To support and encourage olive growers, olive oil producers, millers, traders, and bottlers who legally market branded, packaged extra virgin olive oils at the retail level (end consumers, mass catering establishments, etc.), to promote products with excellent organoleptic characteristics (quality criteria perceived by consumers), while maintaining and improving quality and promoting the use and consumption of high-quality olive oils.
- b)** To inform and encourage consumers (including young consumers) and professionals using olive oil (culinary schools, chefs, mass catering establishments – restaurants, taverns, hotels, etc.) to recognize and appreciate, beyond the documented health, organic, and nutritional value, the organoleptic characteristics, i.e. sensory properties (aroma – taste – harmony) of high-quality extra virgin olive oils.

B. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Competition is conducted under the auspices of a four-member Organizing Committee, composed of internationally recognized scientific and professional experts in olive oil.

The Organizing Committee has exclusive authority and responsibility for addressing and resolving any matter related to the organization and conduct of the Competition. Among other responsibilities, it ensures compliance with ethical rules, confidentiality, and equal treatment of all participants throughout all stages of the Competition.

The decisions of the Organizing Committee are final and irrevocable.

C. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Eligible participants:

Group A

- Olive oil bottling and trading companies of all forms
- Cooperative Organizations
- Producer Groups that market branded, packaged extra virgin olive oil.

Group B

- Olive millers – Olive oil producers

D. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Group A

1. Must market branded packaged extra virgin olive oil in containers up to 5 liters.
2. Products must be produced during the olive harvest season of the competition year and comply with Regulation (EC) 2568/91 and its subsequent amendments.
3. For each brand name and category entered, a homogeneous batch of at least 1,000 kg must be available and maintained until the announcement of results.
4. Labels of Greek origin products bottled in Greece must bear the indication “Greek Product” and the identification code (EL 40 XXX) of the bottling unit. Equivalent country-of-origin labeling applies to foreign participants.

Group B

1. Must hold valid certifications from accredited bodies (e.g., organic certification).
2. Must produce a homogeneous batch of at least 500 kg per category entered.

E. OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Participants must submit to the FILAIOΣ Secretariat by Monday, 02 March 2026:

1. A fully completed Participation Application (Annex A or B).
2. Four (4) sealed bottles (500 ml, 750 ml, or 1 liter) per entry.
3. Group B participants: four (4) full, hermetically sealed containers.
4. Chemical analysis certificate and organoleptic evaluation certificate issued by an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory.
5. Technical Information Form (Annex C), fully completed.
6. Proof of payment of participation fees.

F. AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards will be granted in the following categories for both Groups A and B:

1. PDO–PGI Extra Virgin Olive Oils
2. Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oils
3. Conventional Extra Virgin Olive Oils

Based on fruitiness intensity (robust, medium, mild), the following awards will be granted:

- Platinum KOTINOS 2026
- Gold KOTINOS 2026
- Silver KOTINOS 2026
- Commendation 2026 (score $\geq 70/100$)

G. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

1. Publication of the Competition

The Competition shall be publicized through all appropriate means and shall include the presentation of the event, the terms and conditions of participation, and the awards. The means of publication shall include the press (newspapers, magazines), the Internet, and Social Media.

2. Expression of Interest / Participation Applications

Interested parties wishing to participate in the Competition must submit to the Secretariat of FILAIOΣ, tel. +30 210 3248567 and e-mail: gram@filaios.org, the required supporting documents, in accordance with the provisions set forth in Chapter E above.

The Secretariat of FILAIOΣ is responsible for examining the accuracy and completeness of the applications with regard to their compliance with the participation requirements of the Competition, as detailed in Chapters C and D above.

The cost of sending the supporting documents, as well as their safe and timely delivery to the Secretariat of FILAIOΣ, shall be borne entirely by the participants in the Competition.

3. Submission and Storage of Samples

Applicants must deliver, by the deadline specified in Chapter E above, in addition to the required documents, the product samples (four (4) packaged or full and hermetically sealed bottles/containers) from the batch that will participate in the Competition and which shall remain stored until the announcement of the Competition results.

Shipping costs and any other expenses related to the transport of the samples shall be borne by the participants in the Competition. The Organizing Committee of the Competition shall not accept entries after the expiration of the above-mentioned submission deadline (date of dispatch, in the case of postal delivery) and shall bear no responsibility for total or partial loss of participation materials, chemical, physical, or organoleptic deterioration of samples due to temperature changes, breakage of bottles/containers, or any other issue arising during transportation.

From the moment the samples are delivered to the Competition Secretariat, the Organizing Committee shall be responsible for maintaining their good condition and integrity, as well as for ensuring their anonymity, in accordance with all rules of professional ethics.

4. Participation Fee for Group A

The participation fee for the Competition amounts to €180.00 plus 24% VAT (total €223.20) per commercial brand name and product category.

In the following cases:

- **If participation applications are submitted by 13/02/2026, the participation fee amounts to €150.00 plus 24% VAT (total €186.00).**
- **If participation concerns more than one sample, the fee for the second and each subsequent sample, regardless of the date of application submission, amounts to €150.00 plus 24% VAT (total €186.00).**

(Specifically, if submission takes place after 13/02/2026, the first sample costs €180.00 plus 24% VAT – total €223.20 – and each additional sample costs €150.00 plus 24% VAT – total €186.00.)

5. Participation Fee for Group B

The participation fee for the Competition amounts to **€150.00 per sample**.

The amount due, as applicable, may be paid in cash or deposited into the following bank accounts, indicating: **“KOTINOS 2026”** and the name of the company or producer exactly as stated in the participation application.

FILAIOΣ – CLUB OF FRIENDS OF OLIVE OIL

ALPHA BANK – IBAN: GR64 0140 1200 1200 0200 2009 914

PIRAEUS BANK – IBAN: GR67 0172 0490 0050 4910 1254 205

6. Evaluation of Samples

The organoleptic evaluation (Panel Test) of the samples participating in the Competition shall be conducted in two phases.

First Evaluation Phase

The first evaluation phase shall concern the classification of the samples according to the median value of fruitiness intensity.

Through this evaluation:

- a) Samples presenting defects in their organoleptic characteristics shall be excluded from further stages of the Competition, and only those samples belonging to the extra virgin olive oil category shall be selected for the next phase.
- b) Samples that qualify organoleptically shall be classified, according to the median value of fruitiness intensity, into one of the following three award categories:
 - High intensity
 - Medium intensity
 - Mild intensity

Second Evaluation Phase

The second evaluation phase shall concern the samples of each olive oil category, as classified according to the median fruitiness intensity during the first phase, and shall be carried out by the Sensory Evaluation Committee using a special evaluation sheet to assess the organoleptic profile of each olive oil.

Based on the results of the members of the Committee during the second evaluation phase, the average score for each sample shall be determined.

For each award category and according to fruitiness intensity, a separate ranking table shall be drawn up in descending order of score, in order to determine the winners of each olive oil category within the framework of the Competition.

The minimum score required for an olive oil to receive an award, including a commendation, is 70 for all categories. The maximum score is 100.

H. SENSORY EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Sensory Evaluation Committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Committee and shall include at least eight (8) extra virgin olive oil evaluators (Greek and/or foreign).

The Chairperson and the Members of the Sensory Evaluation Committee shall be appointed by the Organizing Committee of the Competition.

The Chairperson of the Sensory Evaluation Committee shall have many years of experience in olive oil quality competitions in Greece and abroad and shall be responsible for supervising the official activities of the Committee and ensuring the smooth, impartial, and transparent conduct of the procedures.

The evaluators, Members of the Committee, must demonstrably have participated in an accredited Virgin Olive Oil Tasting Panel and/or have served as judges in national or international extra virgin olive oil competitions.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS – AWARD CEREMONY

The names of the Competition winners shall be made public through a Press Release, posted on the FILAIΟΣ website, and promoted through relevant announcements via mass media (press, magazines, social media, etc.), as well as within the framework of special seminars and events organized or attended by FILAIΟΣ.

In order to protect the prestige of all participants in the “KOTINOS 2026” Competition, sample scores shall not be made public.

Participants may request and obtain information regarding the scores of the samples they submitted from the Organizing Committee of the Competition, following a written request to the Secretariat of FILAIΟΣ at the e-mail address: gram@filaios.org.

The awards of the distinguished participants shall be presented during an official ceremony to be held within the framework of the International Food & Beverage Exhibition FOODEXPO 2026 (13–15 March 2026). The exact date shall be announced in due time.

Participants awarded in the “KOTINOS 2026” Competition shall be entitled to promote the distinction they received to the general public.

Awarded participants may place a sticker on the packaging of the awarded brand, derived exclusively from the declared quantity of the homogeneous batch participating in the Competition, indicating the Competition, the olive harvest year, the award category, and bearing the logo of “FILAIΟΣ”.

ANNEX A'

KOTINOS 2026

International Olive Oil Contest for EVOO

PARTICIPATION FORM

The signatory:

..... as a legal
representative of the company: VAT NO:

Address:..... Town:

..... Phone no: website:

..... Email:

..... that
packs / distributes the branded extra virgin olive oil (please choose
the category: PDO, PGI, BIO, Conventional) with the brand name
..... (please write the name of the
product as written in the product label – this is how it will be written in the prize if distinguished).

1. I request the participation with the above brand name and category of extra virgin olive oil, in the Quality Contest "KOTINOS 2026", organized by the Olive Oil Society FILAIOS.

2. I declare that:

a. I fully accept the terms, conditions and procedures of the Contest and I waive all my rights regarding the decisions for the conduct and the results of the Contest.

b. I have a homogeneous batch of kgs from the sample with which I will participate in the Competition, a quantity which I undertake to maintain until the announcement of the results of the Competition.

Variety of olive trees:
..... Olive groves
surface:

c. I consent to the use of information concerning my company for the purposes of the Contest, in the context of the promotion and dissemination of information within the EU and Internationally.

3. I submit for the brand name and category of awards in question:

Four (4) bottles of ml each of branded packed product.

4. I submit a Certificate of Laboratory Chemical Examination and Organoleptic Evaluation.

Venue:

Date:

(Signature + stamp)

ANNEX B'

KOTINOS 2026

INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL CONTEST FOR EVOO

PARTICIPATION FORM

The signatory olive oil grower:

VAT

NO:.....

Address:..... Town:.....

..... Phone no: website:

Email:

..... that produces extra virgin olive oil (please choose the category: PDO, PGI, BIO, Conventional),

prize if distinguished),

1. I request the participation with the above brand name and category of extra virgin olive oil, in the Quality Contest "**KOTINOS 2026**", organized by the Olive Oil Society FILAIOS.

2. I declare that:

a. I fully accept the terms, conditions and procedures of the Contest and I waive all my rights regarding the decisions for the conduct and the results of the Contest.

b. I have a homogeneous batch of kgs from the sample with which I will participate in the Contest, a quantity which I undertake to maintain until the announcement of the results of the Contest.

Variety of olive trees:

Olive groves surface:

c. I consent to the use of information concerning my company for the purposes of the Contest, in the context of the promotion and dissemination of information within the EU and Internationally.

3. I submit for the brand name and category of awards in question:

Four (4) bottles of ml each of branded packed product.

4. I submit a Certificate of Laboratory Chemical Examination and Organoleptic Evaluation.

Venue: Date:

(Signature + stamp)

ANNEX C

KOTINOS 2026

INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL CONTEST FOR EVOO

Technical Information (Optional)

1. Competitor's name:
2. Product category (PDO, PGI etc) and brand name (where applicable)
3. Participant's status (Packer/trader/exporter), Olive oil grower):
4. Quantity of olive oil of homogeneous batch: kgs
5. Geographical location of olive groves:
6. Olive Groves characteristics: (a) Mountainous /semi mountainous / lowland (b) Irrigated / Not irrigated
7. Olive trees variety: %,
..... %,
8. Month of harvesting:
9. Type of olive oil mill: (a) Classic (by pressing) (b) Decanter 2 -PHASE (c) Decanter 3 -PHASE
(d) Other

Venue: Date:

(Signature + stamp)

