



Rome – From February 2 to February 4 2006 Rome will host an important symposium where international experts will debate on “*Olive oil, companies and work facing the future: innovation, quality, market, multifunctionality – opportunities and challenges*”.

The subject was so important as to push the **European Commission – Employment DG** to finance the organization of a meeting to promote the debate and exchange among olive oil producers and workers in the light of the changes brought in the olive-growing sector by the enforcement of the new community agricultural policy and the recent reform of the olive oil sector.

Trade union representatives of the Italian agricultural and food sector, national olive oil producers and entrepreneurs of the productive world of France, Spain, Portugal and Greece will participate in the project.

The aim is to enhance a profitable exchange of practices and information and lay the grounds for the exchange with Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia, new EU member countries.

An ad hoc evaluation and coordination group, made of experts by **Flai Cgil** (the Italian trade union for agriculture and food industry workers), **Unaprol** (National union of olive growers associations), and **Fondazione Metes** (research and training institute in the agricultural and food sector to promote employment and sustainability), assisted by experts of the project member countries, as main olive oil producing European countries, has started working in Italy on October 20.

In November, the Steering Group launched a dedicated Internet Site: **www.olivicolturamoderna.org** that will enhance the exchange of information among the parties. The on-line editorial project will be accompanied by the publication of a monthly newsletter and a web-based forum that will ensure an uninterrupted and profitable activity of information and consultations between stakeholders on olive-growing related matters in the light of the enforcement of the new common organization of the markets in olive oil.