



"War is hell" (W. Tecumseh Sherman)

Russia and Ukraine

A reference to this sad episode in the 21st century, which can only be condemned, is compulsory.

Without going into political assessments. **First of all: the macro-analysis of the experts** who point out the impact on the financial markets, the price of certain raw materials, the increase in fiscal pressure in the West in order to have more defence spending in the future, or the entry into a new commercial world based on de-globalisation. **And watch out for inflation at home** (already at record levels in Spain in the last 33 years... reaching 7.4%), which in the short term cannot be combated with the expected interest rate hikes.

Secondly, the impact on lemons.

Russia is already suffering a strong devaluation of the rouble combined with difficulties in paying for imports.

This summer we will have to see what happens to lemon exports from South Africa and Argentina to this region, which in 2021 totalled 72,000 tonnes (out of a total of 577,000 tonnes exported by these two countries - 12%). In principle, there should be no possibility of these lemons being diverted to the EU and generating oversupply, since for phytosanitary reasons the fruit destined for Russia is not produced on farms registered for the control and monitoring of Black Spot (CBS). **By October, it will be necessary to observe the situation and whether or not these markets are an option for Turkish exporters.**



The movie Mad Max (1979) and the New IPCC Report (2022)

Just released; this week we can read **the new report from the United Nations Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**. A report that **confirms the bad news**. In short, and to get to the point: climate change is already dramatically affecting humanity.

This is not a matter of scaremongering (let's remember that this is a technical report in which hundreds of researchers have participated). In the case of Spain, it points out that it will be one of the areas where the impacts will be most severe, so we can only react. We live, work and grow lemons and grapefruits in an area of the world that has been declared a "climate emergency". **Rising temperatures paint a bleak picture, reminiscent of the film Mad Max (remember that in 1979 it already presented us with an apocalyptic future marked by water, oil and energy shortages, economic crisis and social chaos). Sound familiar?**

Farmers, who are by nature observant and always on the lookout for small changes that are sometimes imperceptible to the urbanite's eye, have been informing us for years about the effects of global warming: changes in flowering dates, impacts on fruit setting premature changes in lemon colour, the appearance of new pests, loss of biodiversity. In the Mediterranean regions (which have been identified as the most affected territories), the impacts on our citriculture can be significant, in terms of quantity and quality. **The lemon map could even physically "move"**, unless well-defined adaptation strategies are employed, including varietal improvement and the adoption of new cultivation practices adapted to the new conditions. A profound mental reset is needed.

Desertification may devastate forests and citrus plantations, desalinated water production with its CO2 emissions will add to the environmental pressure. **Are we in time? We do not have an answer, but our responsibility is to try.** To design short-, medium- and long-term strategies based on the total conviction that there is no other way out. **It is not just about being resilient, but about being proactive and, why not, ambitious.** It is not just about surviving, but about creating a better world that will be the legacy for future generations...

