

# oriGIn

Organization for an International  
Geographical Indications Network

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## President's message



Luis F. Samper  
President of OriGIn

Dear members of OriGIn and GI friends:

2007 is being a year full of important challenges for OriGIn, allowing

our organization to continue committed and actively present on the GI scenario at a worldwide level.

As announced in the former edition of our Newsletter, OriGIn Secretary General is already installed in Alicante since March 2007, having improved the efficiency of OriGIn Secretariat allowing us to achieve our strategic objectives with the available staff.

During the past months, we have remained strongly committed at the international level to call for a better protection for Geographical Indications (GIs) in the context of the WTO negotiations. Concretely, the Vice-presidents of OriGIn have joined me in an international initiative urging WTO negotiators to reach concrete progress on the enhancement of GI protection in the context of the Doha Development Round. Current WTO rules on GIs are unbalanced and do not help producers to fend off abuses in an effective way. There is an urgent need to establish fair international trade rules to allow for an efficient GI protection. At a crucial time of the negotiations of the Doha Round, we hope that WTO members will ensure the livelihood of millions of people from developed and developing

countries, confirming their ability to meet their Doha commitments to guarantee a genuine Development Agenda by providing better protection for our traditional and unique products.

During the past months, OriGIn has remained actively present on the international scene, participating in seminars and conferences throughout the world in order to promote the GI concept and call for better protection of GIs at national, regional and international level. Among others, in the present Newsletter you will read more about the participation of OriGIn's Vice-president from India, Brigadier Anil Adlakha, at the seminar on "WTO negotiations on agriculture – Perspectives and options" organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi on March 2007, or the reunion of the National Country Ham Association in Memphis (USA) in March 2007, which I personally attended.

Among these actions, it is important to point out the WIPO International Symposium that took place in Beijing (China) from 26 to 28 of June, where Ester Olivas, Secretary General of OriGIn, together with the Adargelio Garrido de la Grana, Vice-president of OriGIn, and myself, had the opportunity to stress concerns of millions of GI producers on the need to ensure better protection for all GI products at national and international levels.

At present, we are working on the organization of a GI conference that will take place in Washington (USA) on 19 September 2007, as

well as on the organization of the Third General Assembly of OriGIn that will take place in Agadir (Morocco) on 22 and 23 November 2007. We hope that all of you can join us for these events.

Furthermore, OriGIn continues strengthening its GI network, promoting the exchange of experiences and expertise between OriGIn members as well as providing with precious advice the increasing number of producers interested in choosing the GI route to protect their traditional products. Through a wide range of communication tools, OriGIn advocates the role played by Geographical Indications (GIs) in the preservation of quality products and in the promotion of sustainable methods of production.

In addition, OriGIn continues collaborating in several research and technical assistance projects in many countries around the world, such as Mongolia or Mexico, among others.

Once more, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all OriGIn members for their hard work, making our organization continuously grow and spreading our common belief in favor of the GI concept. Of course I invite all of you to continue working together so we can fulfill all the goals that we propose for the following months!

Luis Fernando Samper  
President of OriGIn

## oriGIn

## Update on WTO Negotiations on GI Protection

### ***Doha Round: intense negotiations but risks of new delays***

During the past months, the WTO negotiations of the Doha Development Round have intensively continued between the WTO members. The Ministers of the USA, the EU, Brazil and India – the G4 – have multiplied their meetings to try to bridge gaps in their negotiating positions, with the aim of contributing to pave the way towards multilateral convergence on modalities in Agriculture and NAMA.

Unfortunately the negotiators were unable to close key gaps between them, especially on the important issue of tariff cuts for industrial goods from the large emerging economies. With respect to agriculture, the triangle of domestic support in agriculture, agricultural market access, non-agricultural market access - did not reach convergence.

As regards to the discussions on Geographical Indications, during the past months some opponents have shown more flexibility. However, the USA are maintaining their opposition to the principle of any enhancement of GI protection.

### ***OriGIn's call for concrete results on the enhancement of GI protection***

In this context, OriGIn's leading representatives have launched an International appeal in favour of Geographical Indications (GIs). In an open letter sent to WTO negotiators on 4 of June 2007, the President and Vice-Presidents of OriGIn called for concrete results on the enhancement of GI protection in the context of the Doha Round.

Geographical Indications are an important intellectual property tool for producers of typical products that are rooted in a specific territory. Joining forces, the President and Vice-Presidents of OriGIn coming from Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Italy, India, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Peru and Spain wrote to trade ministers and negotiators to urge them to improve GI protection.

OriGIn members consider that the WTO TRIPs Agreement currently does not offer the legal means to prevent the abuses of their GI names. They call for the modification of Article 23 TRIPs to allow all GI products to benefit from the level of protection currently granted only to GI wines and spirits. OriGIn also supports the establishment of a multilateral register on GIs that would be open to all products.

Current WTO rules on GIs are unbalanced and do not help producers to fend off abuses in an effective way. There is an urgent need to establish fair International trade rules to allow for an efficient protection of Geographical Indications. Therefore, progress on GIs protection in the coming weeks is therefore of the utmost importance.

You may find OriGIn's Open letter sent to the representatives of all WTO Member States enclosed to this Newsletter's Edition.

### ***Crucial negotiations ahead***

The focus of Doha negotiations returns now to Geneva, expecting the next ministerial meeting not before September – October 2007. The Presidents of the negotiating groups should present in the coming weeks texts which should normally be adopted before August 1st. However, the negotiations on non-agricultural market access are proving very difficult at the moment. Several negotiators in Geneva already talk about a possible postponement of a decision and a possible agreement in the autumn.

At the informal TNC meeting at the level of Head of Delegation that took place on 22 of June, Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director General of the WTO stressed to its members: *"You now have a unique opportunity to demonstrate that this deal can be successfully closed. So please engage fully in the multilateral process led by the Chairs, and put your cards on the table over the coming weeks in Geneva so that we can reach full modalities."* (WTO News).

However, the failure of the G4 negotiations hinders the conclusion of the Doha Round. They will now be re-launched by a proposal made by the WTO Director-General, Pascal Lamy and/or the Presidents of the negotiating groups in Geneva.

WTO members have their last chance now to show that the WTO is capable to help local communities by delivering on the improvement of GI protection. OriGIn will remain strongly committed on the call for better protection of GIs in the future, relying on all GI producers around the world as well as on the committed WTO members to obtain progress on the improvement of GI protection.

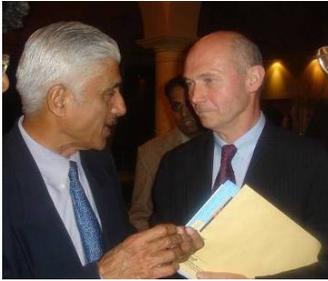


WTO Building in Geneva

## oriGIn In Action

### ***OriGIn meets Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director General of the WTO, in Delhi (India)***

On January 2007, Brigadier Anil Adlakha - Vice-president of OriGIn for Asia - met Mr. Pascal Lamy -Director General of the WTO-, during his official visit to India. OriGIn profited this opportunity to insist on the importance to ensure a better protection under Article 23 of TRIPS for all GI products and not only for wines and spirits.



Mr. Pascal Lamy (Director General of WTO) & Brigadier Anil Adlakha (Vice-president of OriGIn for Asia)

**OriGIn actively present at the Food Quality Certification Conference**

On 5 and 6 February 2007, the Secretary General of OriGIn and several of its members took part in the "Food Quality Certification" Conference that took place in Brussels. This conference underlined the importance of food quality linked to the origin and animal welfare and GIs were put forward as one of the key tools to promote such characteristics.

The Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Mariann Fischer Boel, pointed out several concluding aspects, in particular, the need to improve communication on the different types of existing food quality certification schemes, to undertake further study on a possible EU quality or EU standards label, to conduct quantitative research into the economics of food quality schemes and to develop a concise guide setting out what makes a good food certification scheme.

In parallel to the conference, there was a quality food market where owners of food quality schemes exhibited information material and some samples of their products. OriGIn had its own stand which received a lot of attention, thank to OriGIn members who kindly sent brochures and other documents with very useful information about their quality products.



Mrs. Mariann Fisher Boel (European Commissioner for Agriculture) and Ms. Ester Olivas (Secretary General of OriGIn). Used by permission of the EC ©

**OriGIn reminds the European Commission to remain committed on achieving positive results for GIs at the WTO negotiations**

On 6 March 2007, Brig. Anil Adlakha Vice-president of OriGIn for Asia, participated at a seminar on "WTO negotiations on agriculture – Perspectives and options" organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), that took place in New Delhi. This event gave him the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Mariann Fischer Boel and insist on the important to ensure better GI protection for all GI products, through the extension of Article 23 of the TRIPs Agreement.



Mrs. Mariann Fisher Boel (European Commissioner for Agriculture) & Brig. Anil Adlakha (Vice-president of OriGIn for Asia)

**OriGIn participates in the reunion of the National Country Ham Association**

Fulfilling our goal to spread the GI message in certain countries, on 30 March 2007, the President of OriGIn Mr. Luis Fernando Samper, participated at the Seminar entitled "Understanding Geographical Indications: Preserving Local Production Traditions in a Global Market Place" within the reunion of the National Country Ham Association that took place in Memphis, USA. He explained the reasons why Colombian Coffee chose the GI route to protect their well-known product as well as the importance of OriGIn's network.

Other OriGIn members participated to this event, such as Mr. Sebastiano Brancoli from the Consorzio Prosciutto di Parma, who presented the practical application of GIs for the Prosciutto di Parma.



Mr. Luis Fernando Samper (President of OriGIn). Memphis (USA), 30 March 2007

**Opening of the Secretariat of OriGIn in Alicante**

On 25 April 2007, the Vice-president of OriGIn for Western Europe, Mr. José Enrique Garrigós and the Secretary General of OriGIn, Ms. Ester Olivas, officially presented the new offices of OriGIn's Secretariat in Alicante (Spain). During an official press conference, the Media learnt more about the international GI network and its structure as well as about the strategic objectives for 2007, in particular the actions proposed towards the USA and MERCOSUR countries, to allow producers of these regions to know more about the benefits of choosing the GI route, as means to develop local communities worldwide.

**Mongolian delegation visits Europe on a GI Study tour**

From 13 to 24 May 2007, a Mongolian delegation, consisting in officers from major Mongolian ministries and institutions as well as textile producers and exporters of Camel wool, cashmere, sheep wool and yak wool took part on a GI business study tour in Europe.

This tour was the final part of the project entitled: "Enhance Mongolian exports through Geographical Indications and GSP+", co-financed by the European Commission. OriGIn was involved in the project as a partner.

The Mongolian delegation met in France the representatives of the *Institute Nationale des Appellations d'origine française* (INAO), the *Fédération française de la couture* and the *Chambre Régionale de l'Agriculture*. In Spain, they met the Office of Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM), the Chamber of Commerce of Alicante and OriGIn's Secretariat. Field trips

to the DO Bordeaux plantations, to Manchego DO production and to the fabrics of CRIGP Turrón de Jijona y Alicante where also part of this tour. During the GI study tour, they stressed a particular interest on OriGIn and its actions, stressing their interest to work closely with OriGIn's GI network in the future.



Ms. Ester Olivas, Secretary General of OriGIn and Mongolian Delegation in Alicante (Spain)

**OriGIn raises the voice of millions of GI producers at the WIPO International Symposium on GIs**

The International Symposium on Geographical Indications (GIs), jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) of the People's Republic of China took place in Beijing from June 26 to 28, 2007.

The Symposium brought together over 300 participants, representing national administrations, producers of GI products and specialists in the field of GIs, in order to exchange information and experiences on the use and protection of geographical indications.

OriGIn was represented by its President, Luis Fernando Samper (Colombian Coffee), its Vice-president, Adargelio Garrido de la Grana (Habanos from Cuba) and its Secretary General, Ms. Ester Olivas (Spain), who delivered excellent presentations on the benefits of choosing the GI route to protect local products and the importance of securing a better protection of GIs at national and international levels.

It was extremely important for OriGIn to take an active part in this Symposium, in order to show the determination and strength of millions of producers from developed and developing countries in favour of GIs.

The pro-GI messages were conveyed in a coherent manner by speakers coming from both developed and developing countries. They included: GIs and trademarks are mutually supportive and should be both protected at international level, GIs are good for all countries in the world for economical, social and environmental reasons, current protection of GIs at international level is insufficient and inadequate, there is a need for extension of Article 23 to all products and for a legally binding register for GIs.



Mr. Luis Fernando Samper (President of OriGIn). Beijing (China), 28 June 2007

**OriGIn participates at seminars**

OriGIn representatives took part in many seminars around the world in the past months. To mention some of them:

- On February 2007, Ms. Ester Olivas, Secretary General of OriGIn participated at the Forum Internazionale dell'olio d'oliva in Parma (Italy).
- On March 2007, Ms. Ester Olivas, Secretary General of OriGIn participated at the Conferenza Economica Nazionale "Regole e negoziati commerciali strategie e politiche di internazionalizzazione delle imprese agricole", organized by the Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori in Lecce (Italy).
- On April 2007, Ms. Ester Olivas, Secretary General of OriGIn, participated at the European Young Farmers' Day "What future for Agriculture" in Brussels (Belgium).
- On May 2007, Ms. Ester Olivas, Secretary General of OriGIn participated at the Regional seminar on "Intellectual Property Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean

Partnership" organized by the Euromed Market Programme in Brussels.

**DG Trade handbook on GIs**

In July 2007, the DG Trade published its Handbook on Geographical Indications (GIs) entitled: "Geographical indications and TRIPs: 10 Years Later... A roadmap for EU GI holders to get protection in other WTO Members".

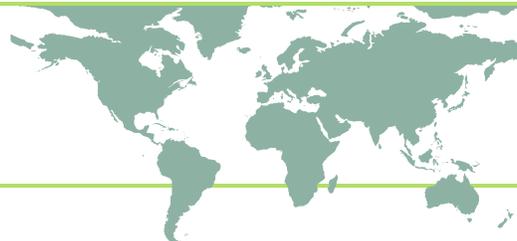
Written by Insight Consulting and the law firm O'Connor & Company (www.oconnor.be), OriGIn collaborated on the elaboration of this manual, which aims at providing European and non European GI producers concrete information on how to protect their GIs in 160 non-EU countries.

It can be accessed at: [http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/intell\\_property/pr270607\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/intell_property/pr270607_en.htm)

**oriGIn Calendar**

- Conference on "Protecting Local Uniqueness and Identity in a Global Economy: Role of Geographical Indications, Certification Marks and Other Trademarks", organized by OriGIn and Dewey Ballantine LLP. Washington (USA), 19 September 2007.
- WIPO event in Geographical Indications in Bogotá (Colombia), 10 October 2007.
- FAO Seminar on "Quality Food products linked to geographical origin and traditions in the Mediterranean". Rabat (Morocco), 8-9 November 2007.
- Third General Assembly of OriGIn. Agadir (Morocco), 22-23 November 2007.
- ASIPI ([www.asipi.org](http://www.asipi.org)) event in Cartagena Colombia. Panel on GIs December 3, 2007.

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## Open letter of OriGIn on the ongoing WTO negotiations on Geographical Indications

### *Better GI Protection must be part of the Doha Agreement*

Geneva, 1 June 2007

As the WTO negotiations are gathering pace, OriGIn members who are producers of Geographical Indications (GIs) from all over the world, call for concrete progress on the enhancement of GI protection in the context of the Doha Development Round.

Geographical Indications are an important intellectual property tool for producers of typical products that are rooted in a specific territory. They contribute to the economical, social and cultural dynamics of many regions across the world and promote sustainable development in developed and developing countries. Unfortunately, the TRIPs Agreement currently does not offer a sufficient protection for GIs. As a result, millions of GI producers are ill equipped to prevent the abuses of their GI names.

OriGIn members consider that the TRIPs Agreement should offer the same level of protection to all GI products in accordance with the non-discrimination principle which is a cornerstone of the WTO system. Therefore, we urge WTO negotiators to agree on the modification of Article 23 TRIPs with a view to provide all GI products with the level of protection currently given to GI wines and spirits. We also fully support the establishment of a multilateral register on GIs that would be open to all products.

The future of millions of producers depends on a decision to guarantee better protection of their GI names in the international trade context. We consider that progress made on this issue in the coming months will determine WTO members' ability to meet their Doha commitments to provide for a genuine Development agenda.

Signed by the President and all Vice-Presidents of OriGIn to show that this is a truly international request.

**Mr. Luis Fernando Samper - Colombia**  
President of OriGIn

**Mr. Adargelio Garrido de la Grana - Cuba**  
Vicepresident of OriGIn World

**Mrs. Zoubida Charrouf - Morocco**  
Vice-President North Africa and Middle East

**Mrs. Agnes Nyaga - Kenya**  
Sub-Saharan Africa

**Mr. Ramón González Figueroa - Mexico**  
Vice-President North America

**Mr. Francisco José Pareja Padro - Peru**  
Vice-President Latin America

**Brig. Anil Adlakha - India**  
Vice-President Asia

**Mr. Tomislav Galovic - Croatia**  
Vice-President Eastern Europe

**Mr. Stefano Tedeschi - Italy**  
Vice-President Western Europe

**Mr. José Enrique Garrigós - Spain**  
Vice-President Western Europe