

# Press Release

## ***Future of the EU agricultural policy***

### **For products with geographical indication, there will be no quality without the management of the production!**

**Brussels, 29 September** – In the framework of the discussions on the future of the quality policy, a round table at the European Parliament (EP) sponsored by Mr. Michel Dantin, MEP (EPP-FR), gathered today the President of the Agriculture Committee of the EP, Mr. Paolo De Castro (S&D-IT), Mr. Daniele Bianchi, member of the Cabinet of Mme. Fischer Boel and a large panel of organisations representing the Protected Denominations of Origin (PDOs) and Geographical Indications (PGIs)<sup>1</sup>. During this event, PDOs and PGIs representatives insisted on the importance of the production potential's management for the development of their products. They underlined that the management of the quality through the PDO or PGI specifications and the protection against usurpations are not enough to insure the development of their unique products. They urged the European Commission to table proposals modifying the European legislation to allow them to manage their production.

A reform of the quality policy should take place in 2010. In May 2009, the European Commission published a communication in which it presented its reform ideas. However, it did not propose anything on the production management.

Confronted with the planned abolition of the planting rights in the wine sector and of the quotas in the dairy sector in 2015, the sectors' representatives called on the EU decision-makers to provide tools to manage the production of geographical indications in the European legislation.

*'An economic analysis of the management of the offer in the Comté cheese sector demonstrates the fair repartition of the added value along the production chain, from the milk producers to the cheese maturers, without a negative impact on the consumer price'*, insisted Patrice Chassart, Vice-President of the CNAOL.

*'The liberalisation of the planting rights in 2015 will inevitably lead to overproduction crisis. In the Rioja region only, we could see a doubling of the planted area'*, highlighted the representative of the Spanish Confederation of wine Regulating Councils.

The success stories of Champagne and Porto were presented. They are largely based on their decisions regarding the production level, as these regions have forbidden several times the plantings in their regions.

In conclusion, Paolo Tanara, President of the Parma Ham Consortium, underlined that: *'We are not here to ask for a specific aid, but to obtain the setting-up of tools which would allow us to manage in a harmonious way the development of our markets and to prevent crisis. We are counting on the support of the European Parliament in this file and are waiting for concrete proposals on the matter from the European Commission'*.

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<sup>1</sup> The CNAOL (Conseil National des Appellations d'Origine Laitières – France), the CNAOC (Confédération Nationale des Producteurs de Vins et Eaux-de-Vie de Vin à Appellations d'Origine Contrôlée), the CECRV (Conferencia Española de Consejos Reguladores Vitivinícolas), the Consorzio del Parmigiano Reggiano, the Consorzio des Prosciutto di Parma, the Federdoc (confederazione nazionale dei consorzi volontari per la tutela delle denominazioni dei vini italiani), the IVDP (Instituto dos Vinhos do Douro e do Porto), AICIG (Associazione Italiana Consorzi Indicazioni Geografiche) and OriGIN (Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network)