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PRESS RELEASE

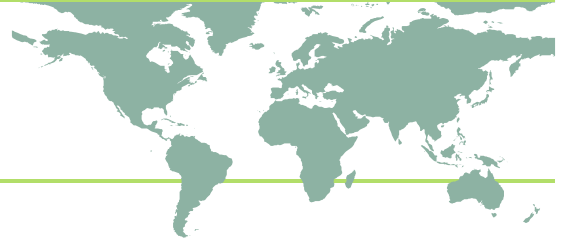
A sound Regulation missing a key ingredient for the future of quality products: oriGIn looks at the implications of the approved “Quality Package”

As the European Parliament adopts the Regulation on agricultural product quality schemes (“Quality Package”), mixed feelings emerge among producers of Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGI), amongst the main stakeholders affected by the new Regulation.

“We are glad to note that the adopted Regulation establishes a sound legal framework for the protection of PDO-PGI: it confirms the special nature of the rights deriving from PDO-PGI, reinforces the protection through the enhanced role of public authorities in monitoring and ensuring the respect of such rights, formally recognizes the role of producers’ groups, streamlines registration procedures and tackles the issue of the protection of PDO-PGI when used as ingredients”, said Mr. José Enrique Garrigós Ibañez, Vice-President of oriGIn and President of the “Asociación Española de Denominaciones de Origen” (ORIGEN España).

“While the Quality Package contains several positive elements, we regret that the management of production volumes is not dealt with by the reform. Over the last four years, we made our case and proved that giving producers’ groups the option to ensure a harmonious growth of production volumes is a prerequisite to preserve the authenticity and quality of PDO-PGI. Such an option in fact has been granted to PDO-PGI cheese within the framework of the Milk Package. From this point view, an opportunity to give the PDO-PGI a modern tool to address the challenges of the XXI century was missed”, said Mr. Stefano Fanti, Director of the “Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma” and member of the Executive Committee of oriGIn.

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Paolo de Castro, Ms. Iratxe García Pérez, all the members of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament, as well as the representatives of Member States - Italy, France and Spain in particular - for their work during the complex process which led to the adoption of the Regulation. Building on the work carried out so far, we will continue our efforts in the following months and stand optimistic that the



management of production volumes for PDO-PGI will be addressed within the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, concluded Mr. Massimo Vittori, Managing Director of oriGIn.

About oriGIn:

The Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network – oriGIn – is the global alliance of Geographical Indications, representing 350 associations and some 2 million producers from 40 countries. For more information:

<http://www.origin-gi.com>