

PRESS RELEASE

Teruel

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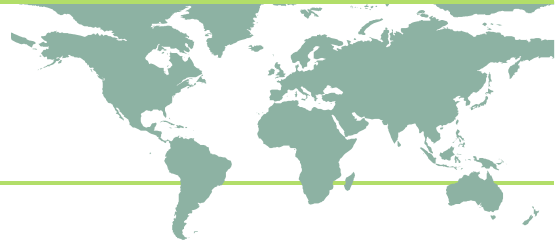
Over 150 GIs producers and specialists from some 40 countries gathered in Teruel (Spain) at the OriGIn fourth General Assembly and renewed their full support for the WTO “Majority Proposal” on GI Extension and the Multilateral Register

On 24-26 June, over 150 Geographical Indications’ (GIs) producers and specialists from some 40 countries gathered in Teruel (Spain) for OriGIn (Organization for and International Geographical Indications Network) fourth General Assembly and adopted the “Teruel Declaration”. OriGIn members agreed that *“by providing jobs for millions of individuals around the world, helping preserve the environment and ensuring that the globalization of markets does not encroach on the diversity, quality and tradition of origin products, GIs play a vital role in our economies and societies. Producers, both from developing and developed countries, increasingly rely on GIs for the sustainable development of their communities”*. In order to keep the GI business sustainable, GI producers from all over the world expressed their full support for the WTO “Majority Proposal” on GI Extension and the Multilateral Register put forward in July 2008 by 108 WTO Members and encouraged *“trade negotiators and policy-makers to look at the Majority Proposal as an opportunity and take into consideration the fact that it represents a balanced compromise among various positions and legal traditions. Any outcome which would not truly facilitate the protection of GIs would undermine the socio-economic potential arising out of origin products and put at risk the development opportunities of millions of producers around the world”*.

OriGIn had its largest gathering ever of GI producers and specialists. Participants encouraged the Secretariat to consolidate its role as the leading advocacy group on GI-related legal issues as well as explore innovative paths to promote GIs and their inherent added value. *“Our Assembly has created increasingly more interest and international presence, demonstrating why GIs have become a truly international concept and it is very encouraging for the future. I am proud to have been OriGIn’s President over the last three years and to have been an exceptional witness of those trends”*, said Mr. Luis Fernando Samper, Director of the Intellectual Property Department at the “Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia” and former President of OriGIn.

Mr. Samper decided not to run for another mandate as President. The General Assembly acknowledged the tremendous job and leadership of Mr. Samper. The General Assembly elected by consensus Mr. Ramón González Figueroa, Director General of the “Consejo Regulador del Tequila” (CRT) as the new OriGIn President. *“I wish to express my deep appreciation for the trust given to the CRT to lead OriGIn, an organization that plays such an important role for worldwide GI producers. I am fully committed to work for our values and, with your support, take the organization to new heights”*, said Mr. González Figueroa.

The General Assembly concluded its works with the celebration of the First OriGIn Art Culinary Award. A specialized Jury, chaired by Mr. José Manuel Varó, a famous Spanish Chef from Alicante, selected the menu prepared by Mr. Kamal Robati, Chef of the Restaurant “Botero”, as the winner of the Award. Mr. Robari used the following GI products: Olio Chianti Classico (Italy), Beurre de karité biologique (Burkina Faso), Huile d’Argan (Morocco), Ternera Gallega (Spain), Prosciutto di Parma (Italy), Viande séchée du Valais IGP (Switzerland), Melocotón de Calanda D.O. (Spain), Pruneau



d'Agen (France), Chateauneuf du Pape (France), Berenjena de Almagro (Spain) Garbanzo de Fuentesaúco (Spain), Parmigiano-Reggiano (Italy), Crottin de Chavignol (France), Montasio (Italy).

For more information:

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About OriGIn:

The Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network – OriGIn – is the first international organisation of geographical indications' producers. OriGIn represents some 80 organisations and more than two-million producers.