



Karel De Gucht, Commissioner for Trade

BE-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Geneva, 07 July 2010

## **Re: Geographical Indications (GIs) in the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)**

Dear Commissioner,

oriGIn is a worldwide network of Geographical Indications (GIs) representing 200 associations of producers from 40 countries, including some of the best known European GIs.

oriGIn has been closely following the negotiations of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). We support such an initiative aimed at strengthening the global enforcement of intellectual property rights and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Commission for its continuous efforts to include GIs under the scope of such agreement.

Following the last round of negotiations held earlier this month in Lucerne, we are particularly concerned with the possibility that an acceleration of talks towards the end of the year might lead to the exclusion of GIs from the scope of ACTA. On top of missing any legal or economic justification, such an outcome would be dangerous for consumers. On the one hand, as the TRIPs Agreement recognizes GIs as a separate category of intellectual property, together with patents, trademarks, copyright, we do not see the rationale for discriminating between GIs and other intellectual property rights within ACTA. On the other hand, the market of origin products is experiencing growing problems in terms of counterfeiting. Since GIs provide consumers with key information about the quality of products they wish to purchase, methods of production, etc., counterfeited GI products not only mislead consumers as to the true origin of the goods, but might also generate serious health problems.





In light of the above, we consider strategic the inclusion of GIs in the scope of ACTA as well as the application of border enforcement measures to GIs. This will protect both the legitimate interests of GI producers that have developed their products throughout years of hard labor as well as consumers' health and well-being.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Bertozzi'.

Leo Bertozzi  
Director,  
Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano-  
Reggiano  
Vice-President, oriGIn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Enrique Garrigós'.

José Enrique Garrigós  
President,  
CRIGP Jijona y Turrón de Alicante  
Vice-President, oriGIn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Amblard'.

Christian Amblard  
Director,  
Syndicat du Pruneau d'Agen  
Member of Technical Committee, oriGIn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Fanti'.

Stefano Fanti  
Director,  
Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma  
Member of Technical Committee, oriGIn

