



Dacian Cioloș, Commissioner for Agriculture

B-1049 Brussels,
Belgium

Geneva, 28 October 2010

Request of authorization from the Greek Government to produce and commercialize “Aceto Balsamico”

Dear Commissioner,

oriGIn – the worldwide network of Geographical Indications (GIs) representing 200 associations of producers from 40 countries, including some of the best known European GIs – is concerned with the submission by the Greek Government to the Internal Market and Services Directorate General – under the Directive 98/34/EC – of technical standards concerning the production and commercialization of “Aceto Balsamico”.

“Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Modena” and “Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Reggio Emilia” are Protected Designations of Origin (PDO), while “Aceto Balsamico di Modena” is registered in the European Union as a “Protected Geographical Indication”. While “Aceto Balsamico” seems to us an evident violation of the rights conferred to the above-mentioned PDOs and PGIs under Regulation 510/2006, any evaluation in this respect should be left to the competent judicial authorities. Authorising under technical standards the production of “Aceto Balsamico” and the use of such name, as well as of any other denomination conflicting with PDOs-PGIs, is incompatible with the EU rules concerning GIs and would be detrimental to the overall European agricultural quality system.

We are confident that the DG Agriculture and Rural Development will intervene in this respect and ensure, in cooperation with the Internal Market and Services Directorate General, the correct application of the EU legislation concerning GIs.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Massimo Vittori".

Massimo Vittori,

Secretary General, oriGIn

