



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Quality Policy Reform: The European Parliament meets the expectations of geographical indications' producers**

Geneva, 21 June. The members of the global coalition of geographical indications' producers, oriGIn, welcome Ms. Iratxe García Pérez Report on the reform of the quality policy adopted today by the Agricultural Committee of the European Parliament. The Report – approved with 33 votes in favour and 4 abstentions – improves significantly the European Commission's proposal on quality policy, in particular with regard to agricultural products and foodstuffs benefiting from Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs).

*"We thank the Members of the European Parliament for their support on key issues for the future of PDOs and PGIs in the European Union. We welcome in particular the recognition of the role played by groups in charge of PDOs and PGIs. In this respect, the possibility for those groups to manage production with the goal of preserving quality and prevent crisis is a fundamental step for the sector"*, declared Massimo Vittori, Secretary General of oriGIn.

Other aspects of the Report are encouraging: the Report strengthens PDO-PGI protection, also when quality products are used as ingredients; it clarifies labelling and control rules and streamlines the registration procedures for PDOs and PGIs.

In September Ms. Garcia Pérez Report will be submitted to the plenary vote of the European Parliament. The Council of the Ministries of Agriculture will have to adopt its position and then find an agreement with the European Parliament on the overall reform of the quality policy.

*"The position of the Members of the European Parliament is crystal-clear and coherent. It is in line with the overall strategy aiming to promote quality as a strategic asset for the European agriculture. Within this framework, PDOs and PGIs play a key role. We hope that the Ministries of Agriculture will find soon a common position based on the excellent document prepared by the Agricultural Committee of the European Parliament, and that an agreement will be achieved in the first reading"*, said Mr. Vittori.