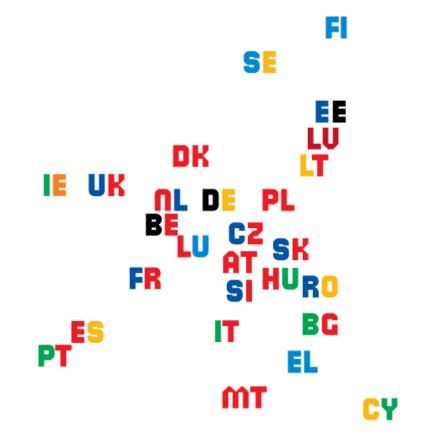# EU2009.CZ

České předsednictví
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Czech Presidency
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2009

CZECH PRESIDENCY HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY POLICY

Prague, 13 March 2009

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF WORKSHOP B: EU QUALITY SCHEMES

Subtopic 1:

Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (TSGs)

- TSGs play an important role towards:

  - Improving quality and production systems at the producers' level

  - Ensuring a certain quality to consumers and providing them with authentic products (a marketing tool)

  - Contributing to the economic development of agricultural areas in the EU

- TSGs are different from GIs: not an intellectual property right system but a quality scheme

Subtopic 1:

Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (TSGs)

- Strong interest for TSGs from new Member States due to historical factors – forced immigration and standardization after the second world war interesting testimonies from Slovenia and Poland

- Positive impact of engaging in a TSG approach demonstrated by the Jamon Serrano case

- Large support from other stakeholders from the old Member States

=> **Strong plea to give time to the TSG scheme to prove its usefulness**

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Subtopic 1:

Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (TSGs)

Shortcomings of the TSG system:

- Cost of certification for a limited volume of production

- Lack of governing body (organisation of producers)

- Limited control and protection of TSGs

- Very limited knowledge of the concept by consumers

Subtopic 1:

Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (TSGs)

- Despite limited number of registered TSGs, **stakeholders called on the European Commission not to delete this quality scheme**

- **Commission asked to look into making the scheme more appealing to both producers and consumers**

- **Necessity to improve the TSG scheme**, including in particular:

  - Mandatory reservation of the name

  - Simplification of the control procedure

  - Better communication of the concept towards consumers (mandatory use of the logo, promotion campaigns)

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