



## Press release

### **One step forward, two steps backward for PDOs and PGIs: oriGIn analyses the Commission's proposals to reform the agricultural product quality policy**

Geneva

10 December 2010

oriGIn welcomes some of the proposals presented today by the European Commission within the framework of the agricultural product quality policy reform, such as the recognition of specific responsibilities for the organizations in charge of Protected Designations of Origin (PDOs) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs), stronger protection and controls throughout the food chain as well as reduced registration procedures. On the other hand, oriGIn regrets the lack of proposals concerning a key mechanism to ensure quality: the management of production volumes.

*“The proposals of the European Commission reflect some producers’ concerns. A few tools to improve the protection as well as to ensure an effective monitoring and enforcement of PDOs/PGIs are provided. It is unfortunate that the Commission did not pursue its reasoning. If the EU considers the development of PDOs and PGIs as a strategic objective, then the organisations in charge of them must be allowed to manage the development of their markets in a harmonious way”* said Mr. José Enrique Garrigos, President of the « Consejo Regulador de las IGP Jijona y Turrón de Alicante » and vice-president of oriGIn.

The management of production volumes with respect to PDOs/PGIs is a prerequisite to preserve the authenticity and quality of origin products, to the benefit of consumers. *“PDO and PGI producers need to be allowed to plan their strategies in line with market developments and, as a result, to adapt the offer of quality products to their demand. It’s crucial for us to prevent crisis which threaten the collective origin products’ heritage. Thanks to PDOs and PGIs, disadvantaged areas ensure economic dynamism and prosperity through sustainable agricultural. In addition, the PDO/PGI scheme provides consumers with quality products as well as a diversified gastronomic heritage. We call on the European Parliament and the Ministers of Agriculture of the European Union to deliver on this crucial point”*, declared Mr. Stefano Fanti, Director of the « Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma » and member oriGIn’s Technical Committee.

Moreover, oriGIn regrets that the Commission published today a set of guidelines on the use of PDO and PGI as ingredients in transformed products which contains no efficient protection mechanism and contradicts the European jurisprudence. *“We do not understand why the Commission decided to adopt these guidelines today while proposing to modify the current legislation on PDOs/PGIs. The choice of tackling such a key issue through guidelines, a non-binding instrument, generates legal uncertainty and runs against the expectations of producers and consumers vis-à-vis the protection of PDOs and PGIs. We urge the European Parliament and the Council to review these guidelines”* concluded Mr. Christian Amblard, Director of the “Syndicat du Pruneau d’Agen” and member oriGIn’s Technical Committee.

#### **About oriGIn:**

*The Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network – oriGIn – is the worldwide network of GIs representing 200 associations of producers from 40 countries, including some of the best known European GIs.*

#### **For more information:**

Contact Mr. Massimo Vittori, Secretary General, tel.: +41 22 755 07 32; e-mail: [secretariat@origin-gi.com](mailto:secretariat@origin-gi.com); web: [www.origin-gi.com](http://www.origin-gi.com)