

oriGIn Report



Highlight of the month

oriGIn moves its headquarters to the heart of the “International Geneva”

As of February 1 2011, oriGIn will move its headquarters to the heart of the “International Geneva”. The new address is the following:

**Rue de Varembe 1,
1202 - Geneva**

You can see it on google map at:
http://maps.google.ch/maps?hl=fr&riz=1T4SKPB_frCH277CH284&q=rue%20de%20varemb%C3%A9%201%2C%20varemb%C3%A9%201202%20gen%C3%A8ve&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=w

With the WTO Doha talks gaining momentum, 2011 might be a crucial year for GIs. oriGIn will renew its efforts for a positive outcome of the negotiations on GIs, which fully takes into account the need of a fairer and more transparent multilateral legal framework.

International Affairs

New GIs around the world

‘Chivito Criollo del Norte Neuquino’: 1st appellation of origin recognised in Argentina

The National Advisory Committee on Geographical Indications and Appellation of Origin for Agricultural and Food Products of Argentina granted the Appellation of Origin to ‘Chivito Criollo del Norte Neuquino’ (goat meat from the Neuquén Province, located in Patagonia). It is the 1st agricultural product to obtain protection as an appellation of origin in Argentina.

This was the result of 5 years of work and covers the production of more than 1500 families of small producers doing extensive breeding of goats. This system of production is characterized by the seasonal migration to summer pastures and the breeding of goats. For further information (in Spanish only):

<http://www.inta.gov.ar/extension/profeder/actualidad/bole94/experiencia.htm>

Colombia: Recognition of three appellations of origin

On 6 December 2010, the Direction of Industry and Commerce of the Trade, Industry and Tourism Ministry of Colombia recognised three appellations of origin: ‘Cerámica Artesanal de Ráquira Colombia’ (handmade pottery and ceramics produced in the Municipality of Ráquira, in the centre of Colombia, using clay red, purple and white from the area as raw material), ‘Chulucanas’ (ceramics produced in the district of Chulucanas, in the centre of Peru, using clay of the area) and ‘Tequila’ (the spirit from Mexico). For further information (in Spanish only):

<http://www.sic.gov.co/index.php?idcategoria=18032&ts=3e15cc11f979ed25912dff5b0669f2cd>

A new Peruvian appellation of origin: ‘Loche de Lambayeque’

On 16 December 2010, ‘Loche de Lambayeque’, a type of pumpkin from the North of Peru, has been recognised as an appellation of origin by the National Institute for the defence of the competition and the protection of intellectual property.

For further information (in Spanish only):
<http://www.andina.com.pe/Espanol/Noticia.aspx?id=IRdqGeC1R1A=>

'Banano de Costa Rica' becomes the 1st GI registered in Costa Rica

On 13 January, 'Banano de Costa Rica' became the first geographical indications recognised in Costa Rica. The protection concludes a 3-year process. The bananas of Costa Rica will carry a label that tells the consumers that the product was grown in the country, respecting specific production standards, including the respect of environmental and workers rights. The production generates around 40,000 direct and 100,000 indirect jobs in the country.

The countries of Central America and the European Union are currently negotiating an association agreement which includes a chapter on the mutual recognition of geographical indications. This agreement should be signed during the 1st semester of 2011. Costa Rica already stated that it wishes to ask for the protection of 'Banano de Costa Rica' in the EU through the association agreement, which provides for a fast procedure for the recognition of GIs.

For further information (in Spanish only):
http://www.elfinancierocr.com/ef_archivo/2011/enero/16/economia2650679.html

Parmigiano-Reggiano: request of recognition in Colombia

In November 2010, the "Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano-Reggiano" submitted to the Ministry of Trade of Colombia an application for recognition of the appellation of origin 'Parmigiano-Reggiano'. The request is based on the Andean Community of Nations (CAN, a trade bloc comprising Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) legislation on intellectual property rights. Article 218 of this law provides for the possibility for a Member State of the CAN to recognize an appellation of origin already protected in another Member State. 'Parmigiano-Reggiano' is in fact already protected in Peru, by virtue of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration.

Within the framework of the EU and Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA), signed in May 2010, the two parties had exchanged a shortlist of GIs to be protected on the other party's territory. 'Parmigiano

Reggiano' was indeed included in such list. However, as the FTA has not entered into force yet, the Consorzio decided to ask in parallel for the recognition of the appellation of origin via the CAN legislation. This decision was the result of the high number of violations of the appellation of origin 'Parmigiano Reggiano' detected in Colombia.

Negotiations

WTO: negotiations on the multilateral register for wines and spirits

Since January 2011, WTO intellectual property negotiators have been working on a draft text concerning the multilateral GI register for wines and spirits. A draft text concerning the notification of GIs was circulated at an informal meeting of members States on 13 January. This draft contains numerous "square brackets", signalling that the wording has not yet been agreed and that several options are under discussion (See http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news11_e/trip_ss_13jan11_e.htm). The next round of negotiations on the register will take place in the week of 24 January and will cover the registration and its legal effects. Meanwhile, various members of the majority proposal's coalition (supporting GI extension, the multilateral register for all GIs and TRIPs-CBD) have been asking the WTO Director General to continue the discussions on GI extension and TRIPs-CBD.

EU – Canada: negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

On 14-16 December, Karel De Gucht, EU Commissioner for Trade, travelled to Canada to discuss progress on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Negotiations of this Agreement were launched on 6 May 2009. A round of negotiations took place in Brussels on 17-21 January 2011. The parties aim at concluding the negotiations by the end of 2011. For further information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/canada/>

EU-Switzerland: beginning of the ratification of the agreement on the protection of GIs

On 11 November, the European Commission adopted a decision "on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the

Swiss Confederation on the protection of designations of origin and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs, amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products". The decision was then sent to the Council and European Parliament for approval. At the Council level, the Member States agreed on this text in January. The Agreement will be signed soon and sent to the European Parliament for the ratification.

EU Issues

Policy Developments

GI Policy

Priorities of the Hungarian Presidency concerning agriculture

The Hungarian Presidency of the Council has defined several themes regarding agriculture as the priorities during its six months Presidency (1st January – 1st July):

- The natural resource management and territorial balance in the context of the discussions on the future CAP post-2013. Discussions are scheduled to take place on 24 January and during the Council of Agriculture ministers which will be organised on 21-22 February. The Council should adopt conclusions on these subjects on 17 - 18 March.
- The 'Dairy Package'. The Hungarian Presidency hopes to reach an agreement by July.
- The 'Quality Package' will be discussed during the Council of Agriculture Ministers on 14 - 15 April. A political agreement could be reached on 27 - 28 June.

Other EU Policies

Budget of the CAP post 2013: debate at the European Parliament

On 13 January, Dacian Ciolos, Commissioner for agriculture, presented its vision of the budget which should be allocated to agriculture to the Special Committee on Policy Challenges of the European Parliament. This Committee was set up last summer to define the position of the Parliament on the next financial framework for the period 2013 – 2020. A report of this Committee will be voted in plenary

session at the end of June, before the European Commission presents its budget proposal.

The budget of agriculture currently accounts for roughly 40% of the EU budget. The main question is to define whether the EU should maintain the current levels of spending of the budget for agriculture, to improve the revenues of the farmers and to fight against food insecurity, or if the budget should be reduced in order for the EU to intervene in other fields, such as research and innovation. The Commissioner explained that the future CAP will be ambitious and that it is important that its budget after 2013 corresponds to its objectives. The Commissioner indeed insisted on the fact that a reduction of the budget the CAP will have a very simple consequence: the rising of national spending on agriculture. Furthermore, the Commissioner reminded the opponents of a strong CAP that the latter contributed to maintain a sustainable growth in rural areas and that the objective to reach a green growth is unimaginable without the CAP.

European Commission: Changes in the DG Agriculture

Since November, Mr. Micheal Erhart is the new Head of Unit of the Agricultural Product Quality in the DG Agriculture, in charge of GIs. He was previously the Head of Unit of the Unit in charge of the international negotiations with industrialised countries. His previous position has been taken by Mr. Flavio Coturni.

Mr. Georges Vassilakis, the lawyer working on GI within DG Agriculture, was named counsellor on the quality policy and is working with Mrs. Maria Angeles Benitez Salas, Director in charge of Sustainability and Quality of agriculture and rural development. Furthermore, since the 1st January 2011, Mr. Michele Ottati, Head of the Unit in charge of promotion of European agricultural products, has been transferred to Unit D2 "Management of Market Measures" and was replaced by Mr. Hans-Erwin Barth.

News on GI registrations

GI registration

- "Dresdner Christstollen / Dresdner Stollen / Dresdner Weihnachtsstollen", Germany (PGI) – 27/11

- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:312:007:0008:EN:PDF>
- “Edam Holland”, The Netherlands (PGI) – 03/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:317:014:0021:EN:PDF>
- “Gouda Holland”, The Netherlands (PGI) – 03/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:317:022:0029:EN:PDF>
- “Agneau du Périgord” France (PGI) – 10/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:326:064:0065:EN:PDF>
- “Pomodoro S. Marzano dell'Agro Sarnese-Nocerino”, Italy (PDO) – 10/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:326:066:0067:EN:PDF>
- “Salzwedeler Baumkuchen”, Germany (PGI) – 10/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:326:068:0069:EN:PDF>
- “Agnello di Sardegna”, Italy (PGI) – 10/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:326:070:0071:EN:PDF>
- “Prosciutto di Modena”, Italy (PDO) – 10/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:326:072:0073:EN:PDF>
- “Melón de La Mancha”, Spain (PGI) – 11/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:327:028:0029:EN:PDF>
- “Maine-Anjou”, France (PDO) – 16/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:333:023:0024:EN:PDF>

Amendment registration

- “Pancetta Piacentina”, Italy (PDO) – 11/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:327:026:0027:EN:PDF>
- “Ricotta Romana”, Italy (PDO) – 16/12

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:333:021:0022:EN:PDF>

- “Limone di Sorrento”, Italy (PGI) – 11/01
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:006:001:0002:EN:PDF>

Registration request

- “Queso Casín”, Spain (PDO) – 26/11
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:321:0013:0017:EN:PDF>
- “Liquirizia di Calabria”, Italy (PDO) – 26/11
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:321:0028:0031:EN:PDF>
- “Κατσικακι Ελασσονας (Katsikaki Elassonas)”, Greece (PDO) – 27/11
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:322:0031:0034:EN:PDF>
- “Jabłka Grójeckie”, Poland (PGI) – 27/11
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:322:0035:0040:EN:PDF>
- “Cordero De Extremadura”, Spain (PGI) – 30/11
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:323:0031:0035:EN:PDF>
- “Nanoški Sir”, Slovenia (PDO) – 15/12
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:340:0028:0031:EN:PDF>
- “Salame Felino”, Italy (PGI) – 20/01
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:019:0011:0015:EN:PDF>

Amendment request

- “Pimiento Asado Del Bierzo”, Spain (PGI) – 26/11
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:321:0018:0022:EN:PDF>
- “Bresaola Della Valtellina”, Italy (PGI) – 26/11
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:321:0023:0027:EN:PDF>