

# oriGIn Report



## Highlight of the month

### EU – China: Cooperation on GIs Strengthened

On 20-25 March, Dacian Cioloş, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, visited China to promote European food and drink GI products. He was accompanied by a delegation of 30 top executives from food and drink companies from across the EU. The Commissioner participated in business-to-government events on GIs, and officially launch the flagship EU-China Trade Project, one of the EU's biggest ever trade programmes.

During a meeting with Chinese Vice-Minister Sun Dawei, in charge of the Administration of quality supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the Commissioner talked about the mutual recognition of GI food and drinks. Within the framework of a pilot project between the EU and China launched in July 2007, both countries lodged applications for the protection of 10 agricultural GIs in the partner's jurisdiction. The 10 EU GI products are:

- Comté
- Grana Padano
- Priego de Córdoba
- Prosciutto di Parma
- Pruneaux d'Agen/Pruneaux d'Agen mi-cuits
- Roquefort
- Scottish Farmed Salmon
- Sierra Mágina
- West Country Farmhouse Cheddar
- White Stilton Cheese/ Blue Stilton Cheese

The 10 Chinese GI products are:

- Dongshan Bai Lu Sun (asparagus) - applied
- Guanxi Mi You (honey pomelo) - published
- Jinxiang Da Suan (garlic) - published
- Lixian Ma Shan Yao (yam) - published
- Longjing cha (tea) - published
- Longkou Fen Si (vermicelli) - registered as PGI
- Pinggu Da Tao (peach) - applied
- Shaanxi ping guo (apple) - published
- Yancheng Long Xia (crayfish) - applied
- Zhenjiang Xiang Cu (vinegar) - published

For further information, please consult:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/26\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/26_en.htm)

## International Affairs

### WTO: No Progress on Farm Talks

On 9 March, the latest round of agriculture talks began with a meeting of the full membership, followed by smaller consultations on tariff simplification, tariff quota creation, the special safeguard mechanism and cotton. However, on 18 March, agriculture negotiations chairperson David Walker said that the negotiations did not provide new input. Some WTO members, as Brazil, China or the USA are continuing to meet bilaterally to try to unlock the discussion.

The next round of negotiations will be held on 4-15 April. A final round of talks is planned in April, before the Easter. As the talks do not show substantive progress, doubts have been raised concerning the fact that revised draft texts will be ready by Easter.

For more information:

<http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/103205/>

### oriGIn meets with the Members of the Council of the State of Geneva

On 17 and 18 March 2011, oriGIn presented its activities at the occasion of a session of the Council of State of Geneva. The "Association Suisse des AOC-IGP", the "Chambre Valaisanne d'Agriculture", the "Consejo Regulador del Tequila" (CRT), the "Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano-Reggiano" and the "Asociación Española de Denominaciones de Origen" (Origen España) also

participated in the event and had the chance to present their unique products.

Over 150 participants attended the two-day event, including members of the Council of State of Geneva, as well as journalists and students. Between the various working sessions, participants visited the stands and had the opportunity to learn more about GIs and oriGIn's work, building the basis for fruitful cooperation.

The meeting took place within the framework of an initiative launched by the President of the Council with the aim to encourage the exchange of experiences between the representatives of the State of Geneva and the civil society.

While in Geneva, the delegation of Origen España met with Ambassador Angelos Pangratis, Head of the Permanent Mission of the European Union to the WTO, as well as with the representatives of the Spanish Mission to the WTO, to reiterate oriGIn's expectations for a satisfactory outcome of the Doha Round negotiations in the field of GIs. The delegation emphasized the importance of extending the protection provided by TRIPS art. 23 to all GIs and of creating an all-inclusive and truly multilateral GI register.

More information and pictures are available at: [http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=193&Itemid=112&lang=en](http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=193&Itemid=112&lang=en)

### European Parliament: Agriculture Must Not Be Jeopardised in Trade Agreements' Negotiations

On 8 March, the European Parliament (EP) adopted in plenary the report of Georgios Papastamkos (EPP – Greece) on “EU agriculture and international trade”. It is a non-legislative resolution, which means that the European Commission is not obliged to take it into account.

The report shows the implication of the EP on the subject. The MEPs ask the European Commission not to jeopardise the EU agriculture in the framework of the negotiation of bilateral or multilateral trade agreements, notably at the WTO level. They condemn the Commission's approach, which too often makes concessions on agriculture in order to obtain enhanced market access in third

countries for industrial products and services. They ask it to stop putting agricultural interests behind the interests of the industrial and services sector. The MEPs want the EU high standards in terms of health, food safety, animal welfare, sustainable development and minimum social standards implemented by the EU producers to be applied to the imported goods in order to insure a fair competition and the protection of the consumers. The EP considers that the Commission has already made an extremely generous offer on agriculture in the framework of the WTO Doha Development Agenda. It asks the Commission to comply strictly with the negotiating mandate given by the Council, which sets the last reform of the CAP as the limit of its action, and to refrain from making any proposals that would predetermine the decisions to be made on the future of the CAP post-2013.

Regarding GIs, the EP deplors the absence of progress at the WTO level on the establishment of a multilateral register for wines and spirits and on the extension of the protection of GI to all agricultural products. It also regrets that, in the framework of trade negotiations, only a shortlist of EU GIs is protected.

The resolution can be consulted at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0083+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

### EU – Central America: Conclusion of the Association Agreement

On 22 March, representatives of the EU and Central America countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) initialled a comprehensive Association Agreement. The negotiations for this Agreement were concluded in May 2010, after more than three years of talks and the work concerning the revision of the legal texts is completed. The formal process of translation, signature and ratification of this Agreement will now start.

The main gains for the EU will be made in the non-agricultural sectors with 100% market access for industrial goods on both sides. However, the Agreement also includes an export quota of 1900 tonnes of skim milk powder and 3000 tonnes of hard cheese. The main gains for Central America

will concern bananas. A shortlist of GIs from both parties is protected under this agreement, see: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2011/march/tradoc\\_147695.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2011/march/tradoc_147695.pdf)

The full text of the Association Agreement can be consulted at: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=689&serie=407&langId=en>

### EU – Colombia and Peru: Conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement

On 23-24 March, the EU on the one hand and Peru and Colombia on the other, met in Brussels to initial the final texts of the Trade Agreement which they have been negotiating.

The initialling will be followed by the translation, signature and adoption of the Agreement. A shortlist of GIs will be protected under annex XIII. Agricultural and foodstuff products, wines, spirit drinks, and aromatised wines are covered, as well as two non food products from Peru and Colombia. The shortlists can be consulted at: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2011/march/tradoc\\_147725.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2011/march/tradoc_147725.pdf)

The full initialled text is available at: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=691>

### EU – Mercosur: New Negotiation Round

On 14-18 March, the EU and Mercosur met for the 4<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations on the future Association Agreement. They reaffirmed their commitment to negotiate a comprehensive, balanced and ambitious Association Agreement.

Eleven Working Groups met during the 4<sup>th</sup> round. Progresses were made in the following areas: rules of origin, public procurement, services and investment, competition and dispute settlement. The key issue of agriculture was not tackled. The parties will now work on their market access offers. The next round of negotiations will take place on 2-6 May, 2011, in Asunción in Paraguay. Another round of negotiations will take place on 4-8 July 2011 in Brussels.

Further information at: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=686>

### EU – Malaysia: Negotiations of the FTA

On 13-21 March, EU Trade Commissioner, Karel De Gucht, visited Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. His visit to Malaysia focused on the progress made in the current negotiations of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). He met Prime Minister Najib Razak and Trade Minister Mustapa Mohamed to review progress made on the comprehensive EU-Malaysia FTA since the negotiations started in October 2010.

In Australia and New Zealand, the Commissioner discussed bilateral trade relations. In Papua New Guinea, he supported the new Economic Partnership Agreement with the region covering duty-free, quota-free access to EU markets for goods, which is now due to be implemented.

Further information at: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=683>

### Canadian Federal Court of Appeal: Current Standards on cheese Composition are valid

In Canada, provisions of the Federal Food and Drug Regulations and of the Federal Dairy Products Regulations define the composition of cheeses. Those provisions state that cheese produced in or imported to Canada must have a certain percentage of casein content derived from liquid milks, and not from other milk products such as milk powder. These provisions came into force on 14 December 2008.

Kraft Canada and Saputo requested the Canadian Federal Court of Appeal to review the constitutional and administrative grounds of those regulations. They argued that the its essential purpose is to support dairy producers by requiring the use of additional liquid milk in the production of cheese, which results in substantial impacts on milk supply costs for dairy processors.

On 28 February, the Canadian Federal Court of Appeal dismissed this request and ruled that the regulations are valid. The Court noted that the regulations were a response to consumer expectations for consistent organoleptic, chemical and physical properties of cheese. Cheese smell, taste and texture could be affected by the use of substitutes to liquid milk products. Furthermore,

the Court noted that the regulations mirrored Section 2.1 of the Codex General Standard for Cheese.

At the EU there is no harmonised compositional standard for cheese. There are different standards at Member States level.

## **EU Issues**

### **Policy Developments**

#### **Other EU Policies**

##### **Reform of the CAP, of the quality policy and milk package: oriGIn's actions at the EU level**

The DG Agriculture of the European Commission is currently reforming three key agricultural policies:

- The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
- The Quality policy (the "Quality Package");
- The rules contractual relations in the milk and milk product sector (the "Milk Package").

As explained in the recent oriGIn reports, these reforms will have an impact on the GI sector. This is why oriGIn has been mobilizing its network to have its priorities included in the reforms, such as the possibility for GI groups to manage the growth of production volumes.

Concerning the reform of the CAP post 2013, the publication of the European Commission's legislative proposals will take place in autumn, but oriGIn is already working in preparation of this publication with the MEPs to improve the draft report of the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament (EP). oriGIn will keep on working on this reform during the following years, to ensure that quality policy issues are fully reflected in the CAP.

On the Quality Package (which was extensively covered in our previous report, see in particular the ones of December 2010 and January and February 2011) and on the Milk Package, oriGIn has been in contact various key MEPs and the respective "Rapporteurs" at the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament.

As to the Milk Package, following the publication of the proposal of the European Commission for a regulation on contractual relations in the milk and

milk products sector, the Agriculture Committee of the EP chose Mr James Nicholson (Conservatives – UK) as "Rapporteur". His Draft Report on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) n°1234/2007 as regards contractual relations in the milk and milk products sector has been published on the EP website, see: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARG+PE-456.663+01+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

The main points of his report are:

- The contracts must contain renegotiation and end provisions.
- The right to contract should exist in the Member States which choose not to implement the contract system set-up in the regulation.
- The limit for the creation of producers' organisations (PO) is lowered to 20% of the production in the Member State concerned.
- The report proposes a derogation for small producing countries and the possibility for PO to cover up to 75% of the production.
- The exemption for cooperatives is reinforced.
- The importance of research and innovation is stated.
- The report deplores the fact that the retail sector is not covered by the proposal.

oriGIn is currently working on the introduction of an amendment allowing the producers' groups and the interbranch organisations to manage the growth of the volumes of production.

##### **Reform of the CAP post 2013: Conclusions of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council on the Communication of the European Commission**

On 17 March, Conclusions of the Hungarian Presidency on the reform of the CAP were adopted during the Council of Agriculture Ministers. It was the occasion for the Member States to give their priorities on the reform of the CAP, before the legislative proposals of the Commission are published during the autumn. The conclusions are available at: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/press\\_data/en/agricult/120009.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/press_data/en/agricult/120009.pdf). It does not include detailed proposals or figures on the future budget of the CAP. However, seven Member States (Estonia,

Danemark, Greece, Latvia, Lituania, Sweden and the UK) affirmed that they could not approve the compromise text. They ask for a large-scale reform of the CAP and consider that the Conclusion of the Presidency are not enough ambitious.

Calendar:

- June 2001: Publication of the proposal of the European Commission on the budget of the EU for the 2014-2020 period.
- Oct. 2011: Publication of the legislative proposals of the European Commission on the CAP post 2013; beginning of the negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council.
- 2013: Adoption of the reform.
- 2014: Implementation of the new CAP.

### **News on GI registrations**

#### **GI registration**

- "Höllens Sprudel" (PDO) Germany – 01/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:056:0003:0004:EN:PDF>
- "Gögginger Bier" (PGI) Germany – 01/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:056:0005:0006:EN:PDF>
- "Rieser Weizenbier" (PGI) Germany – 01/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:056:0006:0007:0008:EN:PDF>
- "Zázrivský korbáčik" (PGI) Slovakia – 12/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:066:0009:0010:EN:PDF>
- "Tekovský salámový syr" (PGI) Slovakia – 12/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:066:0011:0012:EN:PDF>
- "Fagioli Bianchi di Rotonda" (PDO) Italy – 12/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:066:0013:0014:EN:PDF>
- "Miele delle Dolomiti Bellunesi" (PDO) Italy – 12/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:066:0015:0016:EN:PDF>
- "Chleb prądnicki" (PGI) Poland – 12/03

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:066:0017:0018:EN:PDF>

- "Oravský korbáčik" (PGI) Slovakia – 12/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:066:0019:0020:EN:PDF>
- "Pera de Lleida" (PDO) Spain – 12/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:066:0021:0022:EN:PDF>
- "Bayerisches Rindfleisch/Rindfleisch aus Bayern" (PGI) Germany – 12/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:076:0036:0037:EN:PDF>
- "Traditional Cumberland Sausage" (PGI) UK – 22/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:076:0038:0039:EN:PDF>

#### **Amendment registration**

- "Pecorino Sardo" (PDO) Italy – 04/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:059:0015:0016:EN:PDF>
- "Chianti Classico" (PDO) Italy – 04/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:059:0017:0018:EN:PDF>
- "Robiola di Roccaverano" (PDO) Italy – 04/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:059:0019:0020:EN:PDF>

#### **Amendment request**

- "Vitellone Bianco dell'Appennino Centrale" (PGI) Italy – 16/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:082:0007:0014:EN:PDF>

#### **Registration request**

- "Kočevski Gozdni Med" (PDO) Slovenia – 04/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:070:0011:0014:EN:PDF>
- "Magyar Szürkemarha Hús" (PGI) Hungary – 17/03  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:083:0014:0017:EN:PDF>