

## Amendments to the oriGIn’s Statutes

(As approved by the General Assembly of 29 September ‘11, held in Guadalajara)

<b>Old version of the Statutes</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Name</b></p> <p>A non-profit-making association as provided for in Articles 60 and following articles of the Swiss Civil Code is established by the signatories of these Statutes (the French version of which shall be considered authoritative). The Association is called: “<i>oriGIn, organization for an International Geographical Indication network</i>”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Name</b></p> <p>A non-for-profit Association as provided for in Articles 60 and the following of the Swiss Civil Code is established by the signatories of these Statutes (<b>the English version is considered the authentic one</b>). The Association is called: “<i>oriGIn, organization for an International Geographical Indication network</i>”.</p>	<p>As English is the language widely spoken by the majority of oriGIn’s members, it is proposed to consider the English version of the Statutes the authentic one.</p> <p>Moreover, a few minor changes in the wording of the sentence are proposed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Definition</b></p> <p>Geographical Indications are indications which identify a good as originating in a territory, a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.</p>		<p>The definition of GIs has been kept as in former article 2. But it is proposed to move such definition to the new art. 3 (see below).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. Headquarters</b></p> <p>The headquarters of the Association are located in Geneva.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Headquarters</b></p> <p>The headquarters of the Association are located in Geneva, Switzerland.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. Objectives of the Association</b></p> <p>The objectives of oriGIn are: to promote the recognition of the fundamental role of Geographical Indications (hereafter: GIs) in sustainable development and to obtain a</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. Objectives of the Association</b></p> <p>The objectives of oriGIn are to promote the recognition of the fundamental role of Geographical Indications (hereafter GIs) in sustainable development and to obtain a</p>	<p>It is proposed to add the definition of GIs (as previously provided for by art. 2 of the Statutes).</p> <p>Moreover, a few minor changes in the wording of the sentence are proposed.</p>

<p>better protection for GIs at the international level.</p> <p>In order to attain these objectives, oriGIn shall contribute to the development of an international network of producers for the protection and the promotion of GIs throughout the world. In particular, oriGIn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ shall encourage exchanges and cooperation among GI producers, such as transfer of experience and expertise;</li> <li>▪ shall campaign for the granting of technical assistance in favour of producers throughout the world in order to let them benefit from the assets of GIs;</li> <li>▪ shall communicate in a coherent way producers' opinions in favour of better protection for GIs in negotiations held at the international level;</li> <li>▪ shall keep regular contacts with international organizations liable to facilitate the realization of its objectives.</li> <li>▪ shall seek to promote and defend GIs.</li> <li>▪ shall fight against counterfeiting and other usurpation.</li> </ul>	<p>better protection for GIs at the international level. <b>GIs are indications which identify a good as originating in a territory, a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.</b></p> <p>In order to achieve these objectives, oriGIn shall contribute to the development of an international network of producers for the protection and the promotion of GIs throughout the world. In particular, oriGIn shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ encourage exchange of experience and expertise as well as cooperation among GI producers;</li> <li>▪ campaign for enhanced technical assistance projects in favor of producers throughout the world aimed at allowing them to benefit from the local GI potential;</li> <li>▪ communicate to policy-makers and the public at large the producers' point of view in favor of better GI protection at the international level;</li> <li>▪ keep regular contacts with those international organizations which may facilitate the realization of its objectives;</li> <li>▪ promote and defend GIs;</li> <li>▪ fight against GI counterfeiting and any kind of usurpation.</li> </ul>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5. Membership</b></p> <p>Membership of the Association shall be open to any GI association, group of GI producers, and any producers' association or group that is likely to benefit from the right to protection of a GI. Associations consisting in different groups of producers of different products may also be members of oriGIn.</p> <p>Associate members of oriGIn are persons or organizations, who are interested professionally or personally to defend the objectives of oriGIn. Associate Members shall have a consultative vote. Constitute a group that benefits from a deliberation vote.</p> <p>Adhesion requests may be addressed to the Management Committee in writing.</p> <p>Any member may renounce his membership of the association by notification addressed to the Association in writing at least one month before the General Assembly. The contribution for the current year shall be due.</p> <p>Any admission of new members shall be approved by the Management Committee and ratified by the General Assembly. The status of membership is acquired on payment of the contribution.</p> <p>Any member who is committed to the payment of a contribution but who is in arrears with this contribution for two consecutive years is</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. Membership</b></p> <p>Members of oriGIn are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ groups of GI producers (hereafter GI Groups);</li> <li>▪ associations of groups representing GIs from the same sector or GIs from multiple sectors (hereafter Collective Members).</li> </ul> <p>Associate members of oriGIn are individuals or organizations which support the objectives of the Association.</p> <p>Members and associate members cannot be held individually responsible for the obligations of the Association.</p> <p>Adhesion requests shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat. The admission of new members shall be approved by the <b>Executive Committee</b>. Following this, the membership becomes effective upon payment of the annual contribution.</p> <p>Any member or associate member may terminate its membership by notification addressed in writing to the Secretariat at least one month before the end of the year. In such cases, the annual contribution is due.</p> <p>Any member or associate member in arrears with the payment of the annual contribution for two consecutive years is considered as having renounced to its membership.</p> <p><b>The Executive Committee</b> may exclude any member or</p>	<p>It is proposed that key decisions concerning the membership are taken by the Executive Committee (for the ratio, see art.6).</p> <p>Moreover, a few minor changes in the wording of the sentence are proposed.</p>
--	--	---

<p>considered as having renounced his membership.</p> <p>The Management Committee may exclude any member who does not respect the Statutes and whose actions may prejudice the interests of the Association or its reputation. This member can appeal the decision to the General Assembly (GA), by lodging his appeal in writing at least one month in advance of its consideration in GA.</p> <p>Members may not be held individually responsible for the obligations of the Association.</p>	<p>associate member which does not respect the Statutes or whose actions may prejudice the interests of the Association or its reputation. The member or associate member at issue can appeal the decision to the General Assembly, by lodging his appeal in writing, at least one month before the General Assembly.</p>	
<p><b>6. Resources</b></p> <p>The budget of oriGIn shall be financed from the following sources: the annual contributions of members and associated members; subventions, given to the Association to attain its objectives; gifts; bequests and other contributions that it may receive. The amount of the contributions is fixed by the General Assembly.</p>	<p><b>5. Resources</b></p> <p>The budget of oriGIn shall be financed from the following sources: the annual contributions of members and associate members, subventions given to the Association to meet its objectives; gifts; bequests; and any other contributions it may receive.</p> <p>The General Assembly fixes the amount of annual contribution for each category of members and associate members with three crossed criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- member/associate member;</li> <li>- GI group/collective member;</li> <li>- full contribution/basic contribution.</li> </ul>	<p>It is proposed to clarify that the annual contribution depends on several criteria (this was previously mentioned in art. 9 of the Statutes and in the Internal Regulation).</p> <p>Moreover, a few minor changes in the wording of the sentence are proposed.</p>
<p><b>7. Organs</b></p> <p><i>7.1 General Assembly</i></p> <p>The General Assembly shall be open to all members and associate members, but</p>	<p><b>6. Bodies</b></p> <p><i>6.1 General Assembly</i></p> <p>The General Assembly is open to all members and associate members.</p>	<p>The role of the General Assembly has been kept as provided for by the current version of the Statutes. To allow a coherent carrying out of its works, it is</p>

<p>exclusively to those who shall have a voting right according to the following rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ associations representing various groups of producers of different products and which shall pay a collective membership fee: 5 votes</li> <li>▪ members who shall pay a full membership fee: 2 vote</li> <li>▪ members who shall pay a basic membership fee: 1 vote</li> </ul> <p>To exercise the right of vote during the General Assembly, members shall be in order on the payment of their fees.</p> <p>Associate members shall have a consultative vote as well as one voice and deliberation vote for such group of members.</p> <p>Decisions shall be adopted by the majority of members attending the Assembly meeting. The ordinary General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years in ordinary session upon convocation at least two months before the date of the meeting. An agenda shall be prepared. Any proposal for the amendment of these Statutes may be communicated to the members at the same time as the convocation.</p> <p>The General Assembly shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ adopt or reject amendments of the Statutes;</li> <li>▪ adopt the annual report of the activities of the Management Committee;</li> <li>▪ adopt or reject the</li> </ul>	<p>The General Assembly shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ approve or reject proposed amendments of the Statutes;</li> <li>▪ approve or reject the annual report of the activities;</li> <li>▪ approve or reject the accounts;</li> <li>▪ decide the strategy of the Association;</li> <li>▪ decide upon the appeals against exclusions of members and associate members;</li> <li>▪ decide upon the dissolution of the Association and the attribution of the remaining funds/goods;</li> <li>▪ fix the amount of annual contributions;</li> <li>▪ elect the President of the Association;</li> <li>▪ elect the Vice-Presidents of the Association;</li> <li>▪ elect the members of the Executive Committee.</li> </ul> <p>Decisions taken by the General Assembly are considered valid if adopted by a majority of votes arising from the members attending or being represented in the meeting. The voting rights are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ collective Members with full contribution: 5 votes;</li> <li>▪ GI Group with full contribution: 2 votes;</li> <li>▪ members with basic contribution: 1 vote;</li> <li>▪ associate members: consultative vote.</li> </ul> <p>To exercise the right of vote during the General Assembly,</p>	<p>proposed to add a provision concerning the fact that the General Assembly can decide exclusively upon the issues on its agenda. However, members have the possibility to ask for items to be included in the agenda at least one month before the General Assembly. Moreover, a few minor changes in the wording and the order of the sentences concerning the General Assembly are proposed.</p> <p>The role of the President has been kept as in the current version of the Statutes. A few minor changes in the wording of the sentences concerning the President are proposed. A mechanism for presenting candidatures to the Presidency is provided.</p> <p>The major change concerns the establishment of an Executive Committee, which has the responsibility to ensure the management of the Association. This would better reflect the current functioning of the Association. It is proposed that only individuals representing members of the Association can serve in the Executive Committee. A mechanism for presenting candidatures is provided. To ensure the commitment of its members, if this amendment is approved, it is proposed to mention in the Internal Regulation that the members of the Executive Committee must attend at least 3/4<sup>th</sup> of its</p>
--	---	--

<p>budget;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ decide upon political options of the Association upon proposal by the Management Committee;</li> <li>▪ decision on the members' proposals previously presented to the Technical Committee;</li> <li>▪ vote upon the discharge of the members of the Management Committee;</li> <li>▪ decide upon the appeals against exclusions of members;</li> <li>▪ decide upon the dissolution of the Association and the attribution of the balance of remaining goods;</li> <li>▪ fix the different quantities of annual fees;</li> <li>▪ Ratify the acceptance of new members.</li> </ul> <p>The General Assembly shall appoint, by a show of hands, or if a third of the present member calls for it, by a secret vote, for duration of two renewable years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the president,</li> <li>▪ the vice-presidents.</li> </ul> <p>The President and the Vice-Presidents shall represent different regions of the world.</p> <p>The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session upon convocation by the Management Committee or at the request of one-fifth of the members</p>	<p>members shall be in order with the payment of their annual contribution.</p> <p>The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years in ordinary session. It shall be called at least two months before the date of the meeting. An agenda shall be prepared by the <b>Executive Committee</b>. The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session at the request of the <b>Executive Committee</b> or of one-fifth of the members of the Association.</p> <p><b>Amendments of the Statutes shall be prepared by the Executive Committee.</b> Then they shall be communicated to the members at least <b>1 month</b> before the General Assembly.</p> <p><b>The General Assembly can decide exclusively upon the issues on its agenda. Members can ask for items to be included in the agenda at least one month before the General Assembly.</b></p> <p><i>6.2 President and Vice-Presidents</i></p> <p>The President represents the Association at the world level.</p> <p>The Vice-Presidents represent the Association in their respective region. They promote oriGIn and its objectives.</p> <p>The President and the Vice-Presidents shall represent different regions of the world. The President and the Vice-Presidents are elected for a period of two renewable years.</p>	<p>meetings and, in this respect, must cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.</p> <p>As a result, the Management Committee, the Technical Committee (and the Treasurer within the Technical Committee) would disappear as independent bodies. While not forming anymore the Management Committee, Vice-Presidents will still pay a key role within the Association. A mechanism for presenting candidatures to the Vice-Presidencies is provided.</p> <p>To convey a more dynamic image of the Association, it is proposed to rename the position of Secretary General as Managing Director. The tasks of the Managing Director are not specifically mentioned in the Statutes because they directly depend on those assigned by the Executive Committee.</p>
---	--	---

<p><i>7.2 Management Committee</i></p> <p>There shall be a Management Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary. The Management Committee shall meet at least once every year.</p> <p>The Management Committee shall deal with the management of the Association, the follow-up and attainment of the objectives of oriGIN and of the decisions of the General Assembly. It shall publish a report of activities for the General Assembly. It shall send the convocation for the General Assembly. It shall nominate the Secretary General and designate the treasurer of the organization.</p> <p><i>7.3 Technical Committee</i></p> <p>There shall be a Technical Committee consisting of experts in protection and promotion of GIs. This committee shall prepare the meetings of the Management Committee, shall cooperate on the activities of the Secretary General and submit the proposals to the Management Committee. The Technical Committee shall be nominated by the Management Committee for a period of two renewable years.</p> <p>The Technical Committee shall meet upon request of the president and/or the Secretary General, who shall chair such meetings.</p> <p>The President may participate on the Technical Committee</p>	<p>Upon a call for candidatures – which has to be sent by the Secretariat at least 2 months before the General Assembly – members of the Association wishing to serve as President or Vice-Presidents shall inform the Secretariat, at least 1 month before the General Assembly.</p> <p><i>6.3 Executive Committee</i></p> <p>The Association is managed by an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 individuals representing members of the Association, elected by the General Assembly for a period of two renewable years.</p> <p>Upon a call for candidatures – which has to be sent by the Secretariat at least 2 months before the General Assembly – individuals representing members of the Association wishing to serve in the Executive Committee shall inform the Secretariat, at least 1 month before the General Assembly.</p> <p>The Executive Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ manage the Association;</li> <li>▪ implement the decisions of the General Assembly;</li> <li>▪ implement the strategy of the Association;</li> <li>▪ establish and implement the annual budget;</li> <li>▪ prepare the agenda of the General Assembly;</li> <li>▪ prepare the report of activities to be presented at the General Assembly;</li> <li>▪ appoint the Managing</li> </ul>	
--	---	--



<p>meetings.</p> <p><i>7.4 Treasurer</i></p> <p>The Treasurer shall fulfill the task of internal auditor of the association or manage oriGIn's account. In the case that the treasurer is in charge of the accountancy, the verification of the accounts shall be undertaken by a member of the association or a manager.</p> <p><i>7.5. Secretary General</i></p> <p>The Secretary General designated by the Management Committee shall form the General Secretariat.</p> <p>He/She shall be the chief executive of the Association. He/she assures the management and the financing of the Association and shall consult if necessary the Deputy General Secretaries.</p> <p>Appointed General Secretaries shall be designated. They shall encourage, together with the Secretary General, the work of the Technical Committee.</p>	<p>Director of the Association and define the terms of reference and salary;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ upon proposal of the Managing Director, select the members of the staff of the Association and define their terms of reference and salary;</li> <li>▪ carry out all tasks that the laws and the Statutes do not assign to any specific organs.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive Committee shall meet upon request of the President and/or the Managing Director, who shall organize the meeting.</p> <p><i>6.4. Managing Director</i></p> <p>The daily management of the Association is ensured by the Managing Director according to the terms of reference prepared by the Executive Committee.</p>	
<p><b>8. Signature</b></p> <p>The individual signature of the President or individual signature of the Secretary General shall validly engage the Association up to a maximum value set by the Management Committee. Above that amount, both signatures are required.</p>	<p><b>7. Signature</b></p> <p>The individual signature of the President or of the <b>Managing Director</b> shall validly engage the Association up to a maximum value set by the <b>Executive Committee</b>. Above that amount, both signatures are required.</p>	<p>Key decisions should be taken by the Executive Committee (for the ratio, see art.6).</p>



<p><b>9. Internal Regulation</b></p> <p>An internal regulation shall set the functioning modes of the Association and fix the amount of the contributions of members and associated members. These contributions shall be adopted by General Assembly.</p>	<p><b>8. Internal Regulation</b></p> <p>An Internal Regulation shall set the functioning modes of the Association.</p>	<p>The criteria concerning the annual contribution are mentioned in the new art. 5 (Resources).</p>
<p><b>10. Duration of the Association</b></p> <p>oriGIn shall be established for an unspecified duration.</p>	<p><b>9. Duration of the Association</b></p> <p>oriGIn shall be established for an unspecified duration.</p>	
<p><b>11. Dissolution</b></p> <p>Dissolution of the Association shall be approved by the General Assembly, which shall make its decision by a majority of four-fifths of the votes casts. The balance of the available assets shall be entirely allocated to an institution of public interest pursuing similar objectives to oriGIn goals and profiting from the tax exemption.</p> <p>In no case, the balance will be returned to the physical founders or members of the organization, nor will it be used in any way, totally or partially, on their profit. The choice of the beneficiary association shall be taken by the General Assembly.</p>	<p><b>10. Dissolution</b></p> <p>Dissolution of the Association shall be approved by the General Assembly, which shall make its decision by a majority of four-fifths. The balance of the available assets shall be entirely allocated to an institution of public interest pursuing objectives which are compatible to the ones of oriGIn and benefiting from the tax exemption. In no case, the balance will be returned to the founders or members of the Association, nor will it be used in any way, totally or partially, to their profit. The choice of the beneficiary association shall be taken by the General Assembly.</p>	<p>A few minor changes in the wording of the sentence are proposed.</p>