



Members' Voice:

oriGIn meeting at the Italian Ministry of Agriculture

*By Ramón González Figueroa, President of oriGIn and
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On 17 July, a high-level meeting was held in Rome between oriGIn and the representatives of the 'Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali' (Mipaaf).

The objectives of the meeting were to review the projects financed by the Mipaaf and implemented by oriGIn over the last 4 years aimed at strengthening the international protection of GIs, discuss possible area of cooperation in the future and analyse the main problems encountered by GIs in foreign markets, and in Mexico in particular.

As for the first point, both oriGIn and the Mipaaf expressed satisfaction for their cooperation, in particular with regard to the activities carried out to promote the GI concept in the USA (where the creation in 2012 of the anti-GI group 'Consortium for Common Food Names' is clearly a sign of the pressure felt by the agro-food industry). Likewise, the Mipaaf expressed its intention to continue its support to the oriGIn project of a worldwide GI compilation, which is considered a strategic initiative. With respect to the protection of GIs in foreign markets, on behalf of oriGIn, I expressed our commitment to pursue our battle to secure an international transparent legal framework. Following the positive experience of the oriGIn General Assembly held in Guadalajara last year, I also mentioned the current opportunities for better protection and enforcement of GIs in Mexico, where public authorities are more and more sensitive to this issue. Given this window of opportunities, both CRT and oriGIn will double their efforts in Mexico.

Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Mipaaf for its trust and support to oriGIn over the last few years, as it played a key role in strengthening our initiatives and strategies in favour of GI producers worldwide.

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International Affairs

At the Global Level

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA): Rejection of the European Parliament

On 4 July, the European Parliament (EP) rejected the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) during its plenary session. 478 Members of the EP voted against the Agreement, 39 voted in favour and 165 abstained. As a result, the ACTA will not enter into force in the EU, nor in its individual Member States. Since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, this was the first time that the EP uses its prerogative to reject an international trade agreement.

Nonetheless, the European Commission announced that it maintains its questions to the European Court of Justice on the compatibility of ACTA with the EU law. Based on the Court opinion, the Commission will decide whether to renegotiate certain provisions with the other ACTA signatories.

The ACTA must be ratified by six contracting countries before it enters into force. As of August 2012, none of the contacting parties has ratified the Agreement. Moreover, Australia and Switzerland decided to suspend the ratification process altogether.

More information at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120703IPR48247/html/European-Parliament-rejects-ACTA>

WTO: Dispute on the Australian law on plain packaging for tobacco products

On 18 July, the Dominican Republic notified the WTO that it has launched a dispute settlement case against Australia over its law imposing plain packaging for tobacco products. The law forbids the use of trademarks or geographical indications on the packaging. The Dominican Republic claims that the Australian law constitutes a violation of:

- Article 22.2(b) of the TRIPS Agreement, because Australia does not provide

effective protection against acts of unfair competition with respect to geographical indications, for example, creating confusion among consumers with respect to the origin of goods;

- Article 24.3 of the TRIPS Agreement, because Australia is diminishing the level of protection it affords to geographical indications as compared with the level of protection that existed prior to 1 January 1995.

Earlier this year, Ukraine and Honduras had requested as well consultations with Australia on the same issues.

For further information:

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news12_e/ds441rfc_18jul12_e.htm

WTO: Ruling on the US Country of Origin Label

On 23 July, the WTO Appellate Body ruled on the case opposing Canada and Mexico to the USA on the latter's country of origin labelling requirements for livestock and meat imports.

The Appellate Body ruled that these labelling requirements are inconsistent with the WTO's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. To comply with the US labelling rules, producers had to constantly monitor the origin of the animals. The Appellate Body found that this labelling rule put foreign products at a disadvantage by making the processing of imported livestock prohibitively costly. The countries have until September to agree on a compliance timetable.

More information at:
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds384_e.htm

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Program against counterfeiting open to private donations

On 29 June, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), based in Vienna, published a press release concerning the Container Control Programme, a joint project between the UNODC and the World Customs Organisation (WCO),

aiming at boosting the inspection of containers and detect illicit goods.

This program led to the discovery of a high number of containers containing counterfeited products by 28 operational port control units in 14 countries. In the press release, the UNODC explains that “a major clothing and apparel manufacturer which has become the first private sector donor” to the program, implying that the programme is open to private sector donations.

Further information at:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2012/June/un-drugs-and-crime-office-world-customs-organization-make-a-dent-on-counterfeit-goods-and-drug-shipments.html>

USA: Fake “Pecorino Romano”

On 10 July, the President of the “Consorzio del Pecorino Romano Dop”, M. Gianni Maoddi, declared during the special audition before a Commission of the Italian Parliament that the French dairy companies - Lactalis - is commercializing “Romano Cheese” in the US market, the main export market of the PDO “Pecorino Romano”. The name and package of “Romano Cheese” infringe the rights deriving from the PDO “Pecorino Romano”.

More information (only in Italian) at:
<http://www.italiaatavola.net/articoli.asp?cod=26533>

Brazil: Second International Symposium on GIs

From 21 to 24 August, oriGIn participated to the Second International Symposium on GIs organised in Fortaleza (Ceará, Brazil). The event was hosted by the “Associação dos Carcinicultores da Costa Negra” (ACCN), currently a member of oriGIn and beneficiary of the GI “Costa Negra” for high quality shrimps produced in this region.

This event aimed at promoting discussions on Brazilian and regional GI policies, to design strategies and encourage partnerships by

mobilizing the relevant stakeholders for regional development. The program included a series of lectures, trainings and a field visit to the region “Costa Negra” to discover the production process.

The conference’s opening speech on “GIs and market access” was delivered by Ms. Ida Puzone on behalf of oriGIn. Some 80 representatives of producers’ groups, institutions as well as researchers attended the event, including some members of oriGIn: “Associação de Produtores de Arroz do Litoral Norte Gaúcho” (Aproarroz) from Brazil, “Associação Nacional de Municípios e de Produtores para a Valorização e Qualificação dos Produtos Tradicionais Portugueses” (QUALIFICA) from Portugal, and “Consejo Regulador del Tequila” (CRT) from Mexico.

More information and photos at:

http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2287&Itemid=137&lang=en

Brazil: Registration of two GIs

On 17 July, the Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) recognised “Região de Salinas” as “*Indicação de Procedência*” for *cachaça* and “Paraíba” as “*Denominação de Origem*” for “*algodão colorido*” (colourful cotton).

Região de Salinas (State of Minas Gerais) is the second Brazilian region officially recognised for production of “*cachaça*” (the first was Paraty, in the State of Rio de Janeiro). The recognized geographical area includes as well other municipalities in the north of Minas Gerais such as Novorizonte, Taiobeiras, Rubellita, Santa Cruz de Salinas and Fruta de Leite. According to the association of producers, from its creation until today, the production of *cachaça* in Salinas is still 100% handmade.

On the other hand, the recognition of Paraíba is based on the way of producing cotton in such area. The colourful cotton was the result of the study of 35 new strains from the localities of Patos and Monteiro, in Paraíba, making this

region one of the main national centre of cotton production of Brazil.

Further information (only in Portuguese) at: http://www.inpi.gov.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1319:deferidas-indicacoes-geograficas-para-algodao-da-paraiba-e-cachaca-de-salinas&catid=50:slideshow&Itemid=146

Meanwhile, on 22 August, the request for the protection of “*Monte Belo do Sul*” (located in the State of *Rio Grande do Sul*) for sparkling wines was presented. Currently, the “Associação de Vinho Produtores of Belo Monte” (Aprobelo) includes 12 wineries, six of them already produce wines under the standards established in the current regulation.

Further information (only in Portuguese) at: http://www.inpi.gov.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1505:vinhos-de-monte-belo-do-sul-podem-ganhar-indicacao-geografica&catid=50:slideshow&Itemid=146

Chile: First GI request for a mineral product name

On 8 June, the Chilean National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI) received a registration request for “Sal de Cahuil, Boyeruca y Lo Valdivia”. This is the first application for a mineral product name. The Chilean sea salt is considered a non-metallic mineral with high protein qualities obtained through a 100% natural process. The production is concentrated in the region VI, in the towns of “Pichilemu” and “Paredes” and is currently amounting to about 6,000 tons with growth projections of 8,000 tons in 2013.

The initiative is part of the program “Sello de Origen” (Seal of Origin), developed by the Ministry of Finance jointly with the INAPI, to protect and promote typical Chilean products. The Director of INAPI, Maximiliano Santa Cruz, noted that “industrial property rights such as “*denominaciones de origen*” encourage the preservation of traditional production, strengthen association capacity building in native

communities and promote economic development of small producers”.

Further information (only in Spanish): <http://www.inapi.cl/portal/prensa/607/w3-article-2673.html>

China: Hexi Corridor Wines registered as GI

On 2 August, “Hexi Corridor” Wines, from the North of China, were registered as GI. The area of production covers 116 towns and 14 counties in the region of Gansu.

More information at: <http://www.winechina.com/en/read.asp?id=2012083466>

AICIG at the London Olympic Games: A success for Italian PDO and PGI

During the Olympic Games in London, from 27 July to 12 August, AICIG, the Italian Association of PDO and PGI, organised several tasting of Italian PDOs and PGIs at the “True Italian Restaurant” in the Olympic Village. This initiative was realised with the support of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture. It has been estimated that, over the 2 weeks, more than 12.000 people attended this event.

The list of PDOs and PGIs products which participated in the initiative are available at: http://www.aicig.it/index.php?page=comunicati_sing&id=69&P=1&A=

Swiss PDO – PGI Association: Election of a new President

On 9 July, the Swiss PDO and PGI Association elected a new President: Ms. Géraldine Savary, “Conseillère d’Etat” of the Canton of Vaud.

One of the main objectives of the new President is to fight against abuse and misappropriations of the PDOs and PGIs in Switzerland and abroad.

Twenty-four out of the twenty-eight Swiss PDO and PGI are member of the Swiss Association (whose Director M. Alain Farine is

a member of oriGIn Executive Committee).

The Association pursues the following objectives: rising the consumers' awareness of PDO and PGI, defending the Swiss PDO and PGI and the interests of the sector, and promoting cooperation and dialogue among the professionals working on GIs in Switzerland.

Further information (only in French) at:

http://www.aoc-igp.ch/_upl/files/AOC-IGP_AG_12.pdf

Bilateral / Regional Issues

**EU – Moldova:
Signature of an agreement
on the protection of GIs**

On 26 June, the EU and Moldova signed an agreement to protect their respective GIs. Moldova will ensure the protection of 3,200 EU GIs (wines, spirits and agricultural products) and the EU will guarantee the protection of two Moldovan PDO wines ("Românești" and "Ciumai").

Further information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/85_en.htm

**EU – Vietnam:
Launch of the negotiations for a
comprehensive Free Trade Agreement**

On 26 June, the EU Trade Commissioner and the Vietnamese Minister for Industry and Trade officially launched the negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The agreement should cover tariffs, non-tariff barriers as well as other trade related aspects, such as services and sustainable development issues.

Vietnam is the third partner of the EU in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), after Singapore and Malaysia, with whom the EU has started negotiations of a FTA.

More information at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/689&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/689&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**EU – Central America:
Signature of a comprehensive
Association Agreement**

On 29 June, the EU and Central America countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) signed a comprehensive Association Agreement.

The agreement has three pillars: political dialogue, cooperation and trade. The provisions on the free trade area will enter into force at the end of this year or at the beginning of 2013; whereas the Agreement as a whole will enter into force after its ratification by all parties.

Further information, at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/713&>

**Mercosur:
New member and suspension of Paraguay**

On 31 July, Venezuela joined as a full member the Mercosur, the South American Common Market already including Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

In the meantime, Paraguay was temporarily suspended from the bloc following the impeachment of its President, Fernando Lugo, by the Senate. Paraguay's suspension will remain in effect until the next presidential election which is scheduled for April 2013. Mercosur will not impose Paraguay economic sanctions.

More information at:

<http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/137560/>

In this context, it is worth recalling that the MERCOSUR covers as well GIs for food products. Resolution no. 26/30, Technical Rule for the Labeling of Packaged Foods is applicable to the labeling of any food that is commercialised in the Member States of MERCOSUR, regardless of its origin. This provision establishes that geographical indications of a country, a region, or a population, which are recognised as places in

which foods are manufactured with specific characteristics, cannot be used in the labelling or the advertisement of foods which are manufactured in other places when this can mislead the consumer.

Furthermore, the Mercosur Wine Regulation (*Reglamento Vitivinícola del Mercosur*), approved by Resolution No. 45/96 establishes DO and GI protection for wines produced in the Member States.

The rules are available at(only in Spanish):
http://www.mercosur.int/msweb/Normas/normasweb/Resoluciones/ES/Res_045_096_.PDF

EU Affairs

GI Policy

Regulation 510/2006: Registration of the name of a Hungarian rose

On 25 July, “Szőregi rózsató”, a bare-root rose cultivated in part of the ‘Csongrád’ County in the South-East of Hungary, was registered as PGI in the EU. This is the second flower name which was registered in the EU as PGI, after the Belgian “Gentse azalea” in 2010.

For further information, please consult: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:198:0004:0005:EN:PDF>

Foreign GIs on the Common Market: Registration of the 8th Chinese GI

On 17 August, “盐城龙虾” (Yancheng Long Xia) was registered as PGI in the EU. Yancheng Long Xia is a crayfish, which comes from the Doulong River area, in Yancheng City (China).

This was accomplished within the framework of a pilot project between the EU and China launched in July 2007 – the so-called “10 plus 10” project – based on which both countries lodged applications for the protection of 10 agricultural GIs in the partner’s jurisdiction. In this respect, it is worth recalling that the following Chinese product names were registered in the EU: Longkou Fen Si (vermicelli) as PGI, Shaanxi ping guo (apple) as PDO, Longjing cha (tea) as PDO,

Guanxi Mi You (honey pomelo) as PDO, Lixian Ma Shan Yao (yam) as PGI, Jinxiang Da Suan (garlic) as PGI, and Zhenjiang Xiang Cu (vinegar) as PGI. Moreover, the applications concerning Dongshan Bai Lu Sun (asparagus) and Pinggu Da Tao (peach) have both been submitted.

For further information, please consult: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:219:0003:0004:EN:PDF>

Other Policies

Promotion of agricultural products: Draft Report of the European Parliament

Following the Communication of the European Commission ‘on promotion measures and information provision for agricultural products: a reinforced value-added European strategy for promoting the tastes of Europe’, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the EP appointed Mr. José Bové (FR, Greens) as “rapporteur” on the issue. His Draft Report – “Promotion Measures and Information Provision for Agricultural Products: What Strategy for Promoting the Tastes of Europe?” - was published on 26 June. The draft Report states that “promotion activities should focus on quality and highly localised food products, rather than on basic agricultural products” (point 3). “Quality products are those that are linked to specific production methods, geographical origins, traditions or cultural contexts, and notes that schemes to protect these already exist in the form of PDOs, PGIs, organic products or TSGs”. The draft report calls for a new ‘local farming and direct sale’ scheme to cover local quality products intended for consumption in the region where they are produced (point 8). Finally under point 13, the draft report explains that the “notion of quality, for promotion purposes, should apply not only to the characteristics of a product, but also to the way it is produced in terms of sustainability”. The vote of this draft report will take place during the next months.

The draft report can be read at:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bP%2f%2fEN%2f%2fDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN491.302%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>

Promotion of agricultural products: Approval of 20 new promotion programmes

On 28 June, the European Commission approved 20 programmes to promote agricultural products in the EU and in third countries. The EU finances 50% of the programmes, in this case €35.9 million. Some programmes concern PDO, PGI and TSG.

More information at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/711&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

By the end of 2012, oriGIn is planning to organise an event in Brussels to explore the opportunities for the Organisation to play a role in facilitating the matching of members' initiatives aimed at carrying out promotion campaigns through EU programs.

Conference on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

On 13 July, Directorate General of Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission organised a conference on "the CAP towards 2020 - taking stock with civil society". Three workshops were organised on the "CAP and food security", the "CAP and natural resources" and the "CAP and balanced territorial development".

The program, the summary and the presentations of the speakers can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/cap-conference-2012_en.htm

News on GI Registrations

Registrations

- "Kalocsai fűszerpaprika-őrlemény" (PDO) Hungary – 05/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:175:0005:0006:EN:PDF>

- "Rheinisches Zuckerrübenkraut / Rheinischer Zuckerrübensirup / Rheinisches Rübenkraut" (PGI) Germany – 13/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:182:0010:0011:EN:PDF>
- "Nostrano Valtrompia" (PDO) Italy – 13/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:182:0012:0013:EN:PDF>
- "Vadehavsstude" (PGI) Denmark – 14/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:186:0017:0018:EN:PDF>
- "Thüringer Rostbratwurst" (PGI) Germany – 19/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:189:0003:0004:EN:PDF>
- "Szőregi rózsató" (PGI) Hungary – 25/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:198:0004:0005:EN:PDF>
- "Squacquerone di Romagna" (PDO) Italy – 25/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:198:0006:0007:EN:PDF>
- "Uva di Puglia" (PGI) Italy – 25/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:198:0008:0009:EN:PDF>
- "Kraški zašink" (PGI) Slovenia – 25/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:198:0010:0011:EN:PDF>
- "Vadehavslam" (PGI) Denmark – 25/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:198:0012:0013:EN:PDF>
- "Ser koryciński swojski" (PGI) Poland – 10/08

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:213:0007:0008:EN:PDF>

- “Bratislavský rožok / Pressburger Kipfel / Pozsonyi kifli” (TSG) Slovakia – 10/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:213:0009:0010:EN:PDF>
- “盐城龙虾 (Yancheng Long Xia)” (PGI) China – 17/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:219:0003:0004:EN:PDF>
- “Bovški sir” (PDO) Slovenia – 21/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:223:0002:0003:EN:PDF>
- “Düsseldorfer Mostert / Düsseldorfer Senf Mostert / Düsseldorfer Urtyp Mostert / Aechter Düsseldorfer Mostert” (PGI) Germany – 21/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:223:0004:0005:EN:PDF>

Registrations of modification

- “Langres” (PDO) France– 23/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:227:0001:0002:EN:PDF>
- “Patata di Bologna” (PDO) Italy– 24/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:229:0006:0011:EN:PDF>

Modification requests

- “Mâche Nantaise” (PGI) France – 11/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:242:0013:0019:EN:PDF>

Registration requests

- “Eichsfelder Feldgieker / Eichsfelder Feldkieker” (PGI) Germany – 28/06
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:188:0006:0010:EN:PDF>
- “Agnello del Centro Italia” (PGI) Italy – 05/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:197:0029:0032:EN:PDF>
- “Ail fumé d'Arleux” (PGI) France – 19/07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:212:0006:0009:EN:PDF>
- “Prés-salés de la baie de Somme” (PDO) France – 25.07
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:257:0010:0014:EN:PDF>
- “Panforte di Siena” (PGI) Italy – 02/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:231:0006:0011:EN:PDF>
- “Orkney Scottish Island Cheddar” (PGI) UK – 09/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:239:0005:0008:EN:PDF>
- “Salmerino del Trentino” (PGI) Italy – 09/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:239:0009:0012:EN:PDF>
- “Moules de boucot” (TSG) France – 09/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:239:0013:0020:EN:PDF>
- “Tortas de Aceite de Castilleja de la Cuesta” (TSG) Spain – 25/08
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:257:0004:0009:EN:PDF>