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MEMBERS' VOICE

An important step in the PGI project for “Cidre de glace du Québec”

by Marjolaine Mondon,

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Following the application for *Cidre de glace du Québec* as Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) submitted by the “Association des Cidriculteurs artisans du Québec”, from June 13 to July 27, the « Conseil des appellations réservées et des termes valorisants » (CARTV) launched a public consultation.

According to the relevant law of Quebec (“Loi sur les appellations réservées et les termes valorisants”), the product specification of an appellation seeking protection must be subject to a public consultation before its recognition. After analysing the results of the public consultation, approving the product specification and deciding on the

accreditation of one or more certification bodies, the CARTV will send the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Food of Quebec its recommendation on whether to recognize the PGI *Cidre de glace du Québec*.

The official PGI certificate issued by the Minister of Agriculture certifies that the product at issue and its method of production have unique and specific characteristics linked to its *terroir* and provide full protection to the relevant appellation in Quebec. Following the national recognition as PGI *Cidre de glace du Québec* will be able to seek protection in foreign jurisdictions.

A unique product from Quebec

The *Cidre de glace du Québec* is a unique product of Quebec with specificity and reputation. Three factors determine its specificity: the characteristics linked to the history of the apple sector in Quebec, the sector development associated with the tradition and the innovation consisting in concentrating sugar in the apple and in the juice exclusively through natural cold. Only a northern climate such as the one in Quebec allows the production of ice cider without using artificial freezing techniques and without adding sugar.

The PGI recognition process has been undertaken by a group of fifty producers with the aim to protect such appellation, whose added value has been built for over 20 years. The reputation of *Cidre de glace du Québec* is actually growing worldwide.

All information on the PGI recognition process is available in French on the CARTV website @

<http://www.cartv.gouv.qc.ca/demande-reconnaissance-ligp-cidre-glace-quebec>

For further information, please contact: marjolaine.mondon@cartv.gouv.qc.ca



LEGAL AFFAIRS

Africa

South Africa: "Rooibos" in search of protection under the Merchandise Marks Act

In early August, the process to protect "Rooibos", the well-known tea brewed from the dried leaves of the plant grown in parts of Western Cape and Northern Cape, under the Merchandise Marks Act of South Africa was launched. This Act provides in its Article 15 that the use of certain words may be prohibited in relation to any trade or business activity. The Merchandise Marks Act of South Africa is available @

http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text.jsp?file_id=130427

The South African authorities came to this solution after seeking an adequate legal strategy to provide protection to "Rooibos" for several years. On the one hand, in South Africa there is no *sui generis* system to protect Geographical Indications (GIs). On the other hand, the registration under the Trademark Act has proved to be problematic because the name "Rooibos" might be considered descriptive. As distinctiveness is not required under the Merchandise Marks Act, requesting the prohibition of the use of "Rooibos" (as well as 5 variations of the name) in relation to beverages, unless they are produced in South Africa, resulted a viable option.

Further information @

<http://www.iam-magazine.com/reports/detail.aspx?g=BFEAB34D-9E66-48EF-9E14-6F69C8762219>

&

<http://mg.co.za/article/2013-08-02-00-rooibos-war-no-storm-in-a-teacup>

Asia

Bangladesh: A new GI Law about to be approved

In July, the authorities of Bangladesh discussed the Geographical Indication (GI) Act 2013, with the objective to adopt it rapidly. The aim of this Law is to protect the country's century-old

indigenous product names, such as Hilsa fish, Jamdani sari, Nakshi kantha (pineapple) and Fazi mango.

Among other provisions, the draft text establishes that only producers associations are entitled to apply for a GI registration; provides for a 60 days opposition period after the publication of an application; and for a protection of ten years (renewable). Moreover, the new GI Act establishes criminal sanctions for GI infringements.

The process of approval of the new law seems to confirm the interest of Bangladesh to join the Lisbon Agreement on the protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration.

More information @

<http://www.dhakatribune.com/regulation/2013/jul/15/geographical-indication-law-cards-protect-indigenous-products>

&

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/index.php?ref=MjBfMDdfMTZfMTNfMV85MF8xNzY2OTA=>

India: GIs remain a dynamic sector

While Pedana "Kalamkari" was registered in the GI Registry of India in August, the applications for "Nagpur orange", tribal "Warli art", "Dharmavaram saris" and "Kaipad rice" have entered in the mandatory opposition period of four months established by the Indian Law.

"Kalamkari" art is a hand-painted art on cotton textile, practiced in the town of Pedana and its neighbouring villages of Machilipatnam, Polavaram and Kappaladoddi in Guduru mandal of Krishna district.

The "Warli art" consists in paintings representing the folklore of the Warli tribe. It is mostly practised by women and has become popular in recent times. The saris from Dharmavaram are the famous weaving with brocade gold patterns manufactured in Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh. "Kaipad" is the name of an organic rice cultivated in the Indian

state of Kerala. The rice cultivation is based on organic farming technics and aquaculture.

Further information @

<http://newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/Organic-kaipad-rice-set-to-get-pride-of-place/2013/08/02/article1713873.ece>,

&

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gi-tag-for-nagpur-orange-dharmavaram-saris/article4974802.ece>

&

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/gi-tag-for-kaipad-rice-to-boost-cultivation/article4989083.ece>

&

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/pedana-kalamkari-art-form-gets-gi-tag/article5033067.ece>

Japan:

“Yamanashi” becomes the first GI for wines

Last July, “Yamanashi” obtained the GI recognition by the National Tax Agency of Japan, becoming the first GI to be granted for wines in this country.

To bear the appellation “Yamanashi”, a wine has to be produced with some specific grape varieties coming from Yamanashi and be produced and bottled in the relevant area. According to this criteria, 55 producers have been authorized by the Yamanashi wineries’ body to use the appellation “Yamanashi”.

More information @

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/07/17/national/yamanashi-wines-seek-regional-cachet/#.UgDIaJLOGHN>

Thailand:

“Thai silk” seeks GI protection in Vietnam

The Intellectual Property Department of Thailand has requested GI registration of “Thai Silk” (produced in north-east Thailand and renowned for its unique texture) in Vietnam.

More information @

http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/newsdetails.aspx?news_id=150329

&

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/GI-certification-sought-for-Thai-silk-30212559.html>

Americas

Mexico:

“Tequila” got GI protection in Chile

In early July, “Tequila” obtained the GI Status in Chile becoming the first Mexican product name to be protected in this country. Currently, “Tequila” is protected in many countries around the world, such as among others, the European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA), Canada, Japan and India.

More information (only in Spanish) @

http://www.impi.gob.mx/work/sites/IMPI/resources/LocalContent/PDF/IMPI_009_2013.pdf

&

<http://www.inapi.cl/portal/prensa/607/w3-article-3594.html>

Paraguay:

New GI Law comes into force

On 20 June, the Parliament of Paraguay adopted a new Law on GIs (Law No. 4.923).

From now on, origin-based quality products’ names, such as “Stevia Paraguaya” (ka’a he’e), which currently enjoy protection under the trademark system, can seek protection as GIs.

The text of the new Law is available @

<http://sil2py.senado.gov.py/CONSULTASILpy-war/formulario/VerDetalleTramitacion.pmf?q=VerDetalleTramitacion%2F5250>

United States:

USPTO Draft of Examination Guide for Geographic Certification Marks

In July, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a Draft Examination Guide for Geographic Certification Marks with the objective to provide examiners and practitioners with additional guidance when dealing with applications for marks certifying the geographical origin of goods (or services).

The document was open for comments and oriGIn submitted its contribution following a consultation with its members. As the Draft Examination Guide is based on the current US law, oriGIn on the one hand made comments to improve the existing procedures concerning Geographic Certification Marks, such as the proposal to provide for a check box on application forms giving the opportunity to applicants to indicate that a Geographic Certification Mark is being applied for; likewise, the proposal for a more “qualitative approach” in the likelihood of confusion search analysis by the Office was submitted by oriGIn. On the other hand, believing on an urgent need for legislative adjustments, we stressed the fact that, beside procedural improvements, the reforms of the current US legal framework on Certification Marks proposed in our manual “American Origin Products (AOPs): Protecting a Legacy”, remain relevant and would allow the American GI business to fully deploy its potential.

The Draft Text of the Examination Guide and the oriGIn’s Comments are available @ http://origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2339%3A30072013-origins-comments-to-the-uspto-draft-examination-guide-for-geographic-certification-marks&catid=26%3Anews&lang=en

United States: “Napa Valley” seeks protection globally

On 27 August, Napa Valley Vintners (NVV) announced the protection of “Napa Valley” as a certification mark in Norway. Currently, “Napa Valley” is protected in several jurisdictions outside the US, being also the first foreign GI for wines protected in China and the EU.

Over the years, the NVV has been adopting a proactive approach in defending the “Napa Valley” appellation from abuse and misappropriations. In the line of such an institutional policy, in August the NVV requested the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to ensure the full protection of wine appellations in the new gTLDs .[wine] and .[vin].

More information @ http://www.napavintners.com/press/press_release_detail.asp?ID_News=400217 & <http://www.wine-searcher.com/m/2013/08/napa-joins-with-champagne-to-protect-regional-identity>

Europe

France: CNAOL reorganizes its structure

The “Conseil National des Appellations d’Origine Laitières” (CNAOL) has established a new structure: Sébastien Breton is the new Director, supported by Christine Bossu, Paul Zindy and Laurent Forray.

The reorganization aims to strengthen the participation of the organization bodies in actions and decision-making of CNAOL. The problem of “isolated” or small dimensions Protected Designations of Origin (PDOs) as well as the implementation of the Milk Package are two of issues identified by the Board of Directors to be developed by working groups.

Furthermore, the CNAOL has affirmed its commitment to strengthen collaboration with the “Centre National Interprofessionnel de l’Economie Laitière” (CNIEL) whose leading has been taken by Bruno Berken in June, as well as to further rely on the resources of “Fédération Nationale des Appellations d’Origine Protégées” (FNAOP) and “Association Nationale des Appellations d’Origine Laitières Françaises” (ANAOF).

Further information (available only in French) @ <http://www.fromages-aop.com/wp-content/uploads/n%C2%B0-15-ann%C3%A9e-du-renouvellement.pdf>

Italy: Parmigiano-Reggiano consolidates its protection on key markets

On 19 June, the PDO “Parmigiano Reggiano” was recognized as a GI in Russia (decision published in the Official Journal on July 12, 2013).

This is an important achievement for the “Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano-Reggiano”, as Russian market represents a tremendous opportunity in terms of export volumes. Moreover, this recognition provides the Consorzio with efficient legal means to fight against counterfeiting and misuse of the PDO in Russia.

More information @

<http://www.parmigianoreggiano.com/news/2013/2/parmigiano-reggiano-russia-fight-against-fakes.aspx>

We take this opportunity to remind you that the oriGIn Manual on GI protection in BRICS represents a valuable tool for GI groups interested to seek the GI recognition in Russia. More information @

http://origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2289%3Aorigin-latest-handbook-gis-brics&catid=33%3Aregular-update-on-gis&lang=en

Kosovo: New GI Law enters into force

On July 19, 2013, the new Law on Geographical Indications (GIs) and Designations of Origin (DO) entered into force in Kosovo.

According to the new GI law, GIs and DO can be registered at Kosovo’s Intellectual Property Office and will be protected against any misuse, imitation or usurpation. The new GI Law establishes a validity period of 10 years renewable indefinitely. Moreover, penalty provisions, including monetary sanctions, are provided in case of infringement.

The full text of the new GI Law is available @ <http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/Law%20on%20geographical%20indications%20and%20designations%20of%20origin.pdf>

Spain: Under the pressure of Origen España, Unilever removes the slogan “Carte D’Or Denominación de Origen”

In August, the multinational company “Unilever” launched in Spain an advertising campaign for

an ice-cream including the slogan “Carte D’Or Denominación de Origen”.

Following this, la “Asociación Española de Denominaciones de Origen” (Origen España) sent a letter to Unilever asking to remove the reference to the “Denominación de origen” from its campaign because of the risk to mislead consumers for an improper use of a concept strictly reserved to quality origin-based product names covered by the Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs. As a result, Unilever changed its slogan in “Carte D’Or Original”.

More information (only in Spanish) @

<http://origenespana.es/unilever-modifica-una-campana-de-carte-d%C2%B4or-a-estancias-de-oe/>
&
<http://www.europapress.es/economia/noticia-unilever-cambia-campana-publicitaria-carte-dor-elimina-referencia-denominacion-origen-20130826105627.html>

Switzerland (I): Registration for “Zuger Kirsch / Rigi Kirsch”

On 18 July, the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) announced the end of the opposition period concerning the PDO application for “Zuger Kirsch / Rigi Kirsch”. As no oppositions were filed, the name was registered as PDO in Switzerland.

The production is made from regional varieties of cherries, which have a characteristic almond flavor. These fruits are distilled since 150 years by local producers with traditional methods. The climate of the Zoug-Rigi region impacts as well on the product’s flavor.

Further information (available in French) @

<http://www.admin.ch/aktuell/00089/?lang=fr&msg-id=50072>
&
<http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00013/00085/00094/01646/index.html?lang=fr>

Switzerland (II): Rejection of three oppositions to the application concerning "Absinthe"

On 2 August, the Federal Administrative Court (FAC) has rejected three oppositions presented by the European Confederation of Spirits Producers, the French Federation of Spirits and the Distiller "Les Fils d'Emile Pernot", respectively, against the registration of "Absinthe" as PGI.

According to the FAC, the Statutes of the European Confederation of Spirits Producers do not allow it to go to court to defend the interests of its members, but only to conduct advocacy activities. As for the French Federation of Spirits, only a dozen of its members out of 191 are affected by the FOAG decision. Finally, the FAC stated that the distillery "Les Fils d'Emile Pernot" did not provide any evidence of export to Switzerland and, therefore, did not prove to be affected by the decision of the FOAG. This decision can be appealed to the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

The full text of the FAC is available @ http://franche-comte.france3.fr/sites/regions_france3/files/assets/documents/b-4888_2012_1.pdf

European Union (EU)

New rules for the application of the Regulation on GIs of spirit drinks

On 26 July, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 716/2013 of 25 July 2013 laying down rules for the application of Regulation 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks was published.

Among others, the new Regulation addresses the use of compound terms and allusions as referred to in article 10 of Regulation 110/2008, the application for GIs of spirit drinks and the use of the EU symbol for registered GIs of spirit drinks. With the exception of two articles, the Regulation shall apply from 1 September 2013.

The Regulation 716/2013 is available @ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:201:0021:0030:EN:PDF>

New Regulation on information and promotion measures for agricultural products

On July 31, the European Commission published Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 737/2013 of 30 July 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 501/2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 3/2008 on information provision and promotion measures for agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries. The new Regulation provides for detailed rules for the application of EC Regulation 3/2008.

Further information @ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/124_en.htm

The text of the Regulation 737/2013 is available @ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:204:0026:0031:EN:PDF>

A new Regulation to deal with Croatian wines

On 2 August, the European Commission published the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 753/2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 607/2009 laying down certain detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products.

Following a request from Croatia on 2 July, this Regulation aims to resolve the issue of Croatian grape variety names which from July 1, 2013 (the day of Croatia's accession to the EU) are in conflict (consist, contain or partially contain) with PDO and PGI for wines protected at the EU level. The Regulation established that these names can be used on Croatian PDO and PGI wines until stocks are exhausted, provided that

they were used in accordance with law applicable before 30 June 2013.

On the other hand, it is worth recalling that the EU has required Croatia to lay off the use of “Prosek” with respect to the local wine, since it is not compatible with the Italian “Prosecco”, protected in the EU as a PDO.

The full text of the Regulation 753/2013 can be consulted @

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:210:0021:0023:EN:PDF>

**OHIM:
Nullity of a trademark conflicting
with the PDO “Parmigiano-Reggiano”**

On 8 July, the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) upheld the opposition presented by the “Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano-Reggiano”, and declared the nullity of the word-graphic community trademark “Tradizioni di Parma” for cheese and dairy products.

The decision was based on the absolute grounds for refusal contained in the Article 7.1 k) of Council Regulation (EC) No 207/2009 of 26 February 2009 on the Community trade mark (CTM) to register trademarks which contain or consist of a designation of origin or a geographical indication registered in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 of 20 March 2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs (in force at the time of opposition and now replaced by the EU Regulation 1151/2012).

Moreover, the OHIM considered the trademark “Tradizioni di Parma” as an evocation of the PDO “Parmigiano-Reggiano” and consequently infringing the Art.13.1 k) of the EU Regulation 510/2006.

The text of the decision is available (only in Italian) @
http://oami.europa.eu/LegalDocs/Cancellation/it/C005032404_3668.pdf

oriGIn welcomed this decision, which is in line with the recommendations contained in its position paper on trademark applications conflicting with PDO/PGI transmitted to the OHIM and various EU trademark Offices in 2011 (please see: http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=37&Itemid=84&lang=en).

News on PGI/PDO

Registrations

“Prés-salés de la baie de Somme” (PDO) France – 09/07:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:188:0003:0004:EN:PDF>

“East Kent Goldings” (PDO) United Kingdom – 24/07:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:199:0001:0002:EN:PDF>

Registration requests

“Antep Baklavası”/ “Gaziantep Baklavası” (PGI) Turkey – 08/08:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:229:0043:0046:EN:PDF>

“West Country Beef” (PGI) United Kingdom – 09/08:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:231:0014:0019:EN:PDF>

“West Country Lamb” (PGI) United Kingdom – 09/08:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:231:0009:0013:EN:PDF>

“Yorkshire Wensleydale” (PDO) United Kingdom – 09/08:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:231:0020:0024:EN:PDF>

“Anglesey Sea Salt”/ “Halen Môn” (PDO) United Kingdom – 10/08

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:232:0017:0020:EN:PDF>

“Dithmarscher Kohl” (PGI) Germany – 10/08:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:232:0021:0025:EN:PDF>

Modification requests

“Κονσερβολία Ροβίων” (Konservolia Rovion) (PDO) Greece – 07/08:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:228:0030:0036:EN:PDF>

“Liquirizia di Calabria” (PDO) Italy – 31/07:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:219:0012:0017:EN:PDF>

INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

ICANN: New gTLDs and GIs

In 2011, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) had launched a program to create new generic Top-Level Domains (new gTLDs) of an “open” nature, such as .[city], .[community], .[brand], or .[GI]. Currently more than 1,300 applications are being processed (see: <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/>). Likewise, the rules for the new gTLDs program are under discussion at regular meetings held by ICANN. At the Beijing meeting, held from 7 to 11 April 2013, the ICANN Government Advisory Committee (GAC) presented concerns with regard to some problematic new top-level domain applications conflicting with national laws, including intellectual property rights (for more details see oriGIn Reports of March and April). The GAC met again during the 47th ICANN meeting held in Durban (South Africa) during the week of 13 July 2013. Governments discussed whether special protection should be provided online for

GIs, and in particular, for the two strings .vin and .wine. More information @

<http://www.ip-watch.org/2013/08/01/governments-disagree-on-geographical-indication-protection-at-tld-level/>

oriGIn has been following closely the ICANN new gTLD program since the beginning. At the General Assembly held in Bordeaux in May 2013, the GI protection at gTLD level was identified as a priority for the action of the Organization (please see the Bordeaux Declaration). Following this, oriGIn launched a worldwide campaign with the aim to ensure that the process of attribution of new gTLDs is fully compatible with the internationally accepted rules on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and, therefore, consider GIs as prior rights deserving protection in case of irregular use in new gTLDs. In this respect, oriGIn got in touch with the Executive Committee of the ICANN Board of Directors and the European Commission. Likewise, several members of oriGIn contacted their respective national representatives within the GAC. The campaign had the objective to draw the attention of ICANN and GAC on the limits that the final draft of the new gTLD Registry Agreement still contains as to the protection given to GIs in the new gTLDs. Moreover, oriGIn stressed the importance to respect the internationally accepted rules on GIs for the overall credibility of the new gTLDs system. Furthermore, oriGIn called on ICANN to establish a dispute resolution mechanism compatible with the financial resources of GI beneficiaries.

oriGIn will continue monitoring the process of attribution of new gTLDs and will insist on the need to ensure the respect of the legitimate rights deriving from GIs.

More information on the oriGIn’s worldwide campaign on new gTLDs & GIs is available @ http://origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2338:09072013-origin-letter-on-the-icann-process-for-the-attribution-of-new-gtlds-and-gis&catid=26:news&lang=en&Itemid=&

<http://www.ip-watch.org/2013/07/11/gi-proponents-seek-recognition-in-new-internet-domains-programme-at-icann/>

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Update on negotiations

On 14 June the mandate for the negotiations was approved by the European Council. In early July, the first round of negotiations took place in Washington, DC and as part of this round of negotiations, a meeting of the Transatlantic Group on Intellectual Property (IP) took place on 11 July.

Under the leadership of the Chief Negotiator, Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Director at the Directorate General (DG) for Trade of the European Commission, the TTIP negotiating team includes Pedro Velasco Martins (DG Trade) for the area of IP and John Clarke and Raimondo Serra (DG Agriculture and Rural Development) to specifically cover GIs. The list of the lead negotiators for all the areas covered by the process is available @ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2013/july/tradoc_151668.pdf. It is important to recall that the Resolution welcoming the start of the TTIP approved by the European Parliament on 23 May stressed that any agreement should be consistent with existing international agreements on IP, expressly supporting the inclusion of GIs in the negotiations.

On the other hand, the EU has presented the initial TTIP Position Papers covering several areas such as trade and sustainable development, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (i.e. barriers to trade in food and agricultural products), among others. More information @

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=936>

&

http://www.ip-watch.org/?p=30818&utm_source=post&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=alerts

&

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=950>

&

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=943>

EU-Central America Association Agreement: entry into force suspended with respect to El Salvador and Costa Rica

The European Council has not authorized the entry into force of the Association Agreement between the EU and Central America with respect to El Salvador and Costa Rica. The Agreement regularly entered into force on 1 August 2013 with respect to Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

The decision of the European Council was based on the opposition of Italy regarding the lack of protection in Costa Rica and El Salvador of various Italian GIs protected under the Agreement (Parmigiano Reggiano, Fontina, Gorgonzola and Provolone Valpadana, as well as to Grana Padano and Prosciutto di Parma, in the case of El Salvador).

Among other trade clauses, this Association Agreement provides the protection of 10 Central American GIs in the EU and of some 200 GIs from the EU in the signing countries of Central America.

More information @

<http://www.dairyreporter.com/Regulation-Safety/Italy-blocks-EU-Costa-Rica-trade-deal-over-cheese-GI-infringements>

&

<http://www.corriereinformazione.it/20130805/26670/impresenegoziati-ue-centro-america-la-posizione-dei-consorzi-di-tutela.html> (only in Italian)

FTA EU-Colombia/Peru: Entry into force in Colombia

On 1 August the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the EU and Colombia and Peru entered into force in Colombia after the conclusion of the ratification procedures last June. In Peru, the FTA entered into force on 1 March 2013.

The agreement establishes the protection of 115 European GIs in Colombia and 2 Colombian GIs in the EU: “Cholupa de Huila” (fruit) and “Guacamayas” (handicraft).

Further information @

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=953>

SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

WIPO: Project on IP and product branding in DCs and LDCs

In the framework of the 25th session of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), held from 15 to 24 July, a side event was organized by the WIPO Secretariat to present the Project on IP and product branding for Developing and Least Developed Countries (DCs & LDCs).

The main purpose of the event was to show experiences of different countries using IP to add value for certain traditional or origin products, thereby contributing to the economic development of local communities. Panama, Thailand and Uganda were the selected countries to develop the pilot projects, based on the level of uniqueness and quality of their most emblematic products and on the existence of an adequate legal framework.

The main challenges encountered by the project have been i) to identify the best IP tool to use in a given case, ii) to assess how the IP system can reconcile tensions between the adaptation of these products to market needs and the preservation of their traditional nature.

More information @
http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/news/igc/2013/news_0017.html
&
http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=131716

India: Microchip to test the authenticity of Kashmir Pashmina

On 5 August, the Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC) was inaugurated in India. As one of its first actions against counterfeiting, the Centre is implementing the

use of a micro-chip attached to the Pashmina to guarantee the genuineness of the product.

This copy-proof micro-chip carries invisible nano particles with a unique code that can be read under infrared light, as well as it provides visible information. It can neither be transferred, nor destroyed. The Centre will start testing if the shawl is handmade or not and if it has enough percentage of Kashmir. In the second stage, the Centre will be able to identify the percentage of the wool-mix that makes the shawl.

More information @
http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-08-06/news/41132034_1_pashmina-shawl-farooqui-crore
&
<http://www.risingkashmir.in/news/kashmir-set-to-have-first-pashmina-testing-lab-52697.aspx>

GI EVENTS

oriGIn at the fourth global review of the WTO Aid for Trade project

On 9 July, oriGIn participated in a seminar on GIs and development issues organised by the French Mission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the framework of the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade at the WTO.

The panel discussed several GI success stories in developing countries in Asia, Africa and South America as well as fresh opportunities in terms of technical assistance for GIs in developing countries.

More information @
<http://www.intracen.org/news/Experts-discuss-the-benefits-of-geographical-indications-and-the-support-needed-to-make-them-work/>
&
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review13prog_e/global_review13prog_e.htm

GIs International Conference in Georgia organized by the WIPO & Sakpatenti

An International Conference on the protection of GIs will be organized on 3 and 4 October in Tbilisi (Georgia) by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Centre of Intellectual Property of Georgia (Sakpatenti).

The topics which will be covered include the latest developments of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration, as well as the experience of Georgia and Hungary on the protection of GIs.

More information @

http://origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2341%3A3-4102013-wiposakpatenti-international-conference-on-gi-protection-georgia&catid=26%3Anews&lang=en

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