



# oriGIn Report

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## MEMBERS' VOICE

### #2013BordeauxGIs

by Mr. Christian Amblard, Syndicat du Pruneau d'Agen,  
and Mr. Marc Roose, Canard à Foie Gras du Sud-Ouest,  
on behalf the organization team



The idea of organizing the oriGIn General Assembly in Bordeaux, came up in early 2011. Immediately it found supporters among the representatives of geographical indications (GIs) as well as the overall agricultural sector and policy-makers in the Aquitaine region. After all, Bordeaux and Aquitaine are the birthplace of the concept of appellation of origin some eighty years ago. The rural economy of the region relies on some 100 GIs, which produce half of the agricultural sector annual turnover. It is therefore understandable that the subject of protection and promotion of GIs is a major concern for regional stakeholders, both from the public and private sector. Some of those local GIs

have been even among the founders of oriGIn. Likewise, the Association of European Regions of Products of Origin (AREPO) was created in Bordeaux in 2004 at the initiative of Aquitaine politicians. Finally, in the framework of the “*Salon de l'Agriculture d'Aquitaine*”, Bordeaux have been welcoming for 15 years the “*Assises de l'Origine*”, an international conference on GIs.

In this context - and with the strong support of Dominique Graciet, President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Aquitaine and of Jean-Pierre Raynaud, President of Coop de France-Aquitaine and vice- President of the Aquitaine region- we were convinced that organizing the respective General Assemblies of oriGIn and AREPO within the “*Asisses de l'Origine*”, would have been beneficial for all partners and have generated economies of scale.



We have chosen to hold the General Assemblies of oriGIn and AREPO at the “*Salon de l'Agriculture*”, “surrounded by its cows and other animals”, because this is where the “*Assises de l'Origine*” traditionally take place. It was as well an ideal place to expose participants to the French gastronomy, cheese and wine in particular. For the International Conference, on the other hand, the Aquitaine Region placed at our disposal its large conference room, thanks to President Alain Rousset, whom we would like to thank for his precious support.



Stéphane Le Foll, French Minister of Agriculture, was right when he expressed his desire to speak at the General Assemblies. His message delivered on May 20 was very clear: France strongly supports oriGIn and AREPO and will work so that the GI concept will further consolidate throughout the world and protect the heritage of producers worldwide. Along the same lines, at the International Conference on May 21, we had the honour of receiving a video message from Dacian Ciolos, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, who confirmed the EU commitment for the consolidation of the GI concept in the world.

As a matter of fact, organizing such an event in Aquitaine has been an exciting challenge, also in light of the fact that we did not want to disappoint our guests after the unforgettable event organised in Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2011, under the direction of the Consejo Regulador del Tequila! Motivated by this, in spring 2012, a team of several local GI experts was established under the lead of Bruno Millet, Director of the Regional Chamber of Agriculture, with the objective to organise the event. Such a group had the support of the experienced Interco team, coordinated by Christine Pécastaingts, to whom we owe much of this event success. Last but not least, the team was backed by Benjamin Labelle, a young intern from the University of Bordeaux, who got a terrific formative experience.

Some highlights: the Gala Dinner at Chateau Lafitte-Laguens, where we offered our guests a night based on GI products: from the Champagne as aperitif, offered by the CIVC, to desserts and after-dinner drinks. The evening began with French songs, followed by international ones to celebrate the global dimension of the event with a group of brilliant young musicians and singers. At the end of the dinner, to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of oriGIn, a slide show with stories and anecdotes which characterised the Organisation since its foundation was presented by the Director and President of oriGIn.



In line with the tradition, we ended the event with field visits: Armagnac, Canards à Foie Gras du Sud-Ouest and Poulet des Landes on the one hand; Fraises du Périgord, Vin de Monbazillac et Pruneaux d'Agen on the other.

All in all, we can say that our goals have been met, with the participation of some 300 people. Our greatest wish is that this event has contributed to further the cause of GIs in the world. We look forward to exploring the culture of another country and its GIs in 2015!

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## LEGAL AFFAIRS

### Asia

#### China: Champagne Protected as GI

The recognition of “Champagne” as a GI in China was announced on May 27. As a result, Champagne became the fourth foreign GI in the sector of wines and spirits protected in China, after Cognac, Scotch Whisky and the Napa Valley. **On the Chinese law on GIs, please see the oriGIn Manual on Protecting GIs in Emerging Economies (BRICs Countries).**

The legal protection in such a key market is a landmark achievement for the “Comité interprofessionnel du vin de Champagne” (CIVC). In 2012, 309 million bottles of Champagne were sold to more than 180 countries in the world, 2 million of which were exported to China (increasing by 51.8% over the previous year). China is now the fifth market outside the EU for Champagne.

Further information (in French) @:  
<http://www.champagne.fr/fr/presse/communiqués/defense-appellation-champagne/reconnaissance-chine-indication-geographique-champagne> &  
<http://www.agrisalon.com/fr/permalien/article/6999762/Reconnu-en-Chine-comme-appellation-d-origine-il-est-desormais-mieux-protège.html>

#### India (I): New GI registration

In May, “Bangalore Blue Grapes” obtained the GI status in India.

The red sandy loam soil and the temperature (35°-37° during the day and 12°-15° at night) of Bangalore and its surrounding area give to these grapes its unique characteristics. More than 4.5 tonnes of Bangalore Blue grapes are produced annually, most of it is used for table purposes.

More information @:  
[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-15/bangalore/39280611\\_1\\_geographical-indication-gi-tag-gi-status](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-15/bangalore/39280611_1_geographical-indication-gi-tag-gi-status)

#### India (II): SuratZari Craft

Surtizari, one of the oldest crafts of Gujarat, had been registered as GI in India in 2010. In May this year, twenty-one manufacturers obtained from the Chennai-based Geographical Indication (GI) Registry the authorization to sell their products using the official logo “SuratZari Craft”. In India, it is mandatory for a manufacturer to get registration under part-b of the GI act to use the official logo.

More information @:  
[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-31/surat/39654831\\_1\\_zari-products-geographical-indication-registration](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-31/surat/39654831_1_zari-products-geographical-indication-registration)

### Americas

#### United States: Safeway Settles Kona lawsuit after two-year battle

After two years of litigation, Safeway Stores, the second largest grocery chain in the US, has settled a federal court lawsuit filed in 2011 by a California consumer (Chanee Thurston, backed by the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, KCFA). The class action filed Thurston alleged damages from misleading labelling of “Safeway Select Kona Blend Coffee”, which contained only a small proportion of Kona beans, without disclosing that the rest of the coffee was grown in regions other than Kona on the Island of Hawaii. The terms of the settlement are undisclosed.

The lawsuit originally sought to recover more than \$500,000 for consumers who purchased the Safeway Select Kona Blend coffee after August, 2007, arguing that the packaging did not disclose how much of the coffee blend actually contained beans from Hawaii’s Kona region.

The settlement is very disappointing for the KCFA as it leaves unresolved whether the use of “Kona” on packages of coffee containing little, if any, Kona grown coffee, violates federal and state consumer protection and fair marketing laws.

Further information @:  
<http://www.konacoffeefarmers.org/kona-labeling/safeway-settles-kona-coffee-blend-mislabeling-lawsuit/>

## Europe

### Spain: Trademark registration denied for "Café Nariño"

In May, the Spanish Patent and Trademark Spanish Office (OEPM) denied a registration of a trademark consisting in a word-graphic sign containing the term "Café Nariño" for "coffee and coffee substitutes". The Office declared such a mark incompatible with the PGI "Café de Colombia" registered in the EU (Nariño in particular is one of the coffee area of the relevant geographical zone). **We are pleased to note that the OEPM rightly apply the relevant European Law on PDO/PGI. Likewise, such an approach to the management of trademark applications conflicting with PDO/PGI was recommended in an oriGIn paper sent to OHIM and various European trademark Offices. See oriGIn paper @ [http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=37&Itemid=84&lang=en](http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=37&Itemid=84&lang=en)**

The Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (FNC), had filed an opposition based on: i) the absolute prohibition for a registration of a descriptive mark; ii) the risk of confusion for consumers as these products do not come from Nariño; iii) the infringement of the EU regulation No. 510/2006 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 Regulation 1151/2012).

File details can be consulted (File No. 3043240) at the OEPM database @:  
[http://www.oepm.es/en/signos\\_distintivos/expediente.html](http://www.oepm.es/en/signos_distintivos/expediente.html)

### Switzerland: Café de Colombia protected as PGI

On 29 May, "Café de Colombia" was recognized as Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) in Switzerland, becoming the first non-Swiss PGI to be granted by the Swiss Government's Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) via the national registration procedure. Several other foreign GIs are protected in Switzerland through the bilateral agreements concluded by the Confederation and its trading partners.

This was a major achievement for the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (FNC), which represents over 560 thousand of coffee producing families and aims at designing and implementing value-added strategies, such as the protection of the origin, which translates into high revenues for coffee growers.

Due to the quality of its origin, "Café de Colombia" increasingly earns more recognition and legal instruments overseas for the promotion and protection of its reputation and unique characteristics. "Café de Colombia" was in fact the first non-European PGI protected in the EU. Likewise, it is registered as a certification mark in the US and Canada.

**To celebrate the recognition in Switzerland, an official ceremony was organized - with the support of oriGIn - by the FNC and the Colombian Mission to the WTO in Geneva at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), within the framework of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT).**

Further information @:  
[http://www.federaciondecafeteros.org/particulares/en/sala\\_de\\_prensa/detalle/cafe\\_de\\_colombia\\_is\\_the\\_first\\_non-swiss\\_protected\\_geographical\\_indication\\_p/&http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2330%3A28052013-cafe-de-colombia-is-the-first-non-swiss-pgi-to-be-granted-recognition-in-switzerland-&catid=26%3Anews&lang=en](http://www.federaciondecafeteros.org/particulares/en/sala_de_prensa/detalle/cafe_de_colombia_is_the_first_non-swiss_protected_geographical_indication_p/&http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2330%3A28052013-cafe-de-colombia-is-the-first-non-swiss-pgi-to-be-granted-recognition-in-switzerland-&catid=26%3Anews&lang=en)

### Switzerland: "Wilson" is not considered an indication of geographical origin

On April 16, the Swiss Supreme Court confirmed the Federal Administrative Court decision concerning the term "Wilson", which was not considered an indication of geographical origin.

Some background on the case: In 2011, the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI, hereinafter) had refused an application submitted in 2010 for the registration of the trademark "Wilson", for tobacco and tobacco products, based,

among other arguments, on the risk of misleading consumers about the origin of goods (Wilson is a city in North Carolina, US). The applicant appealed to the Federal Administrative Court, which in 2012 reversed the decision, stating that “Wilson” was not primarily understood by the relevant consumers as an indication of geographic origin, but rather as a surname. The IPI appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court, which only focuses on questions of law, held that – while there is a presumption that marks containing geographical names would be understood as indications of geographic origin - in the case at hand, the Administrative Court had rightly concluded that the relevant public would not understand the term “Wilson” primarily as an indication of geographic origin.

Further information @:

[https://www.marques.org/class46/default.asp?D\\_A=20130528#3232](https://www.marques.org/class46/default.asp?D_A=20130528#3232) & the full text of the Supreme Court Decision (only in German) at: <http://www.decisions.ch/entscheide/id/1618>

### **Ireland: Plain packaging for tobacco products**

On May 29, the Irish government announced its intention to follow Australia in introducing a plain packaging legislation for tobacco products. Under the new rules, the packs will be presented in a generic size and color, with uniform typeface brands on the bottom and without any logo or other branding graphic element. Earlier this year, the New Zealand’s Government had announced its intention to apply similar measures.

The Australian legislation on plain packaging for tobacco products is facing strong opposition and is being currently questioned before the World Trade Organisation (WTO). One of the main arguments against the implementation of such rules is related to its compatibility with intellectual property rights, and its inconsistency with the obligations under the TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.

Further information @:

[https://www.marques.org/class46/default.asp?D\\_A=20130529#3235](https://www.marques.org/class46/default.asp?D_A=20130529#3235)

## **European Union (EU)**

### **Croatian “Prosek” incompatible with the Italian PDO “Prosecco”**

Croatia is set to become the 28<sup>th</sup> Member State of the EU on July 1.

At this date, the EU will require Croatia to terminate the use of “Prosek” with respect to the local wine, since it is not compatible with “Prosecco”, protected in the EU as a PDO.

More information @:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/croatia/10107828/Why-joining-the-EU-is-so-hard-to-swallow-for-Croatias-winemakers.html>

### **New non-EU GI registration request**

On May 27, a new request of PGI was filed for “Khao Sangyod Muang Phatthalung”. It is a traditional rice variety grown in Phatthalung, Thailand, for more than a hundred years. Early this year, “Khao Hom Mali Thung Kula Ronghai,” a traditional Thai jasmine rice, became the first Thai GI to be registered in the EU.

The number of GIs seeking protection in the EU is progressively increasing, showing the potential of the recognition of emerging economies’ GIs in important markets such as the EU.

Further information at:

[http://www.ipthailand.go.th/ipthailand/dmdocuments/Sor Chor 49100011.pdf](http://www.ipthailand.go.th/ipthailand/dmdocuments/Sor%20Chor%2049100011.pdf)

### **News on PDO/PGI**

#### **Registrations**

“Stornoway Black Pudding” (PGI) United Kingdom - 09/05 :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:127:0005:0006:EN:PDF>

“Porc du Sud-Ouest” (PGI) France – 09/05:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:127:0001:0002:EN:PDF>

“Fin Gras / Fin Gras du Mézenc” (PDO) France – 09/05:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:127:0003:0004:EN:PDF>

“Lakeland Herdwick” (PDO) United Kingdom - 17/05 :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:133:0007:0008:EN:PDF>

“Ail fumé d’Arleux (PGI)” France - 17/05 :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:133:0009:0010:EN:PDF>

“Ξηρά Σύκα Ταξιάρχη” (Xira Syka Taxiarchi) (PDO) Greece - 17/05 :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:133:0011:0012:EN:PDF>

“Eichsfelder Feldgieker / Eichsfelder Feldkieker” (PGI) Germany - 17/05 :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:133:0005:0006:EN:PDF>

“Panforte di Siena” (PGI) Italy - 22/05 :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:135:0003:0004:EN:PDF>

“Salmerino del Trentino” (PGI) Italy 24/05:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:138:0001:0002:EN:PDF>

“Agnello del Centro Italia” (PGI) Italy - 24/05 :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:138:0003:0004:EN:PDF>

## Registrations requests

“Focaccia di Recco col formaggio” (PGI) Italy – 01/06:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:155:0013:0016:EN:PDF>

“Istarski Pršut” (PDO) Republic of Croatia – 01/06:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:155:0003:0008:EN:PDF>

“Valašský Frgál” (PGI) Czech Republic – 01/06:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:155:0009:0012:EN:PDF>

“Mohant” (PDO) Slovenia – 06/06:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:160:0007:0010:EN:PDF>

## Modification requests

“Dinde de Bresse” (PDO) France – 4/6:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:157:0004:0011:EN:PDF>

“Chaource” (PDO) France – 5/6:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:159:0007:0013:EN:PDF>

## INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

### The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement: 17<sup>th</sup> round of talks in Lima

The 17th round of TPP talks was held in Lima, Peru from 15 to 24 May. The eleven current negotiating Countries (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore,

the US, and Vietnam) made significant progress, especially on areas such as services, government procurement, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, labour and dispute settlement, as well as e-commerce, technical barriers to trade, financial services, and investment, among others. Likewise, productive discussions seem to have been held in some difficult areas of discussion, such as intellectual property rights and environment.

TPP countries hope to conclude an accord by the end of this year, probably even in time for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting this October in Bali, Indonesia. As its twelfth member, Japan will join the next round of talks to be held from 15-25 July, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Japan entry brings to the table some concerns on sensitive topics such as agriculture.

**As some of provisions proposed in the framework of such negotiations concern the concept of generic terms as well as rules concerning trademark and GIs (see on this Mr. O'Connor presentation at our latest International Conference in Bordeaux @: [http://www.origin-gi.com/images/stories/PDFs/English/Event/GA\\_Bordeaux/International\\_Conference\\_Bordeaux\\_PPT/13.04.26\\_-\\_Bordeaux\\_OConnor.pdf](http://www.origin-gi.com/images/stories/PDFs/English/Event/GA_Bordeaux/International_Conference_Bordeaux_PPT/13.04.26_-_Bordeaux_OConnor.pdf)), oriGIn encourages its members from negotiating Countries (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the US, and Vietnam), to approach their respective authorities and ask for more transparency on such talks. The overall objective is to make sure that TPP provisions will not jeopardize the legitimate rights deriving from GIs in the TPP negotiating countries.**

Further information @:  
<http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/165008/>

### **EU-Canada: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and EU is expected to be completed in the following months.

Agriculture still represents the main challenge for the conclusion of the Agreement. Other key issues remain market access (Canadian beef and European cheese in particular) **as well as GIs (with the issues of genericity and clash between EU PDO/PGI and trademarks registered in Canada). On the oriGIn position on this, see our letter to the EU on CETA available @: [http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=82&lang=en](http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=82&lang=en)**

More information @:  
<http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/165002/>  
&  
<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/canada/>

### **EU-US: IPRs and GIs in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**

On May 23, a Resolution welcoming the start of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) was approved by the European Parliament.

The Parliament supported in particular the inclusion of a strong protection for clearly defined areas of intellectual property rights (IPRs), expressly including GIs. The Resolution stressed that any agreement should be consistent with existing international agreements on intellectual property.

Meanwhile, a few information about the draft EU negotiation mandate for the TTIP was made public. According to this information, the draft text provides that negotiations should aim at enhanced GI protection. The draft mandate is expected to be approved on 14 June, at the session of the EU Foreign Affairs Council of Ministers. **oriGIn had sent a letter to all Members of the European Parliament, which stressed the urgent need to support the inclusion of IPRs, and in particular GIs in the EU mandate to conduct bilateral negotiations with the United States to set-up a comprehensive economic agreement.**

The full text of the resolution is available @:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2013-0227+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Further information @:  
[http://www.ip-watch.org/2013/05/23/eu-parliament-backs-start-of-transatlantic-fta-negotiations/?utm\\_source=post&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=alerts](http://www.ip-watch.org/2013/05/23/eu-parliament-backs-start-of-transatlantic-fta-negotiations/?utm_source=post&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=alerts)

& @:  
<http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/165011/>

& @:  
[http://www.ip-watch.org/2013/05/31/latest-eu-mandate-for-eu-us-fta-shows-priorities/?utm\\_source=post&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=alerts](http://www.ip-watch.org/2013/05/31/latest-eu-mandate-for-eu-us-fta-shows-priorities/?utm_source=post&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=alerts)  
<http://www.citizen.org/IP-out-of-TAFTA>

### EU-Japan

The first round of negotiations for a FTA between the EU and Japan took place from 15 to 19 April 2013 in Brussels. Further discussions will continue covering key issues such as Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) and rules of origin, as well as tariff reductions, in particular, regarding trade in agricultural products in order to increase market access and enhanced opportunities for businesses. Japan is the EU's second biggest trading partner in Asia, after China. Together the EU and Japan account for more than a third of world GDP.

The second round of negotiations will be held from 24 to 28 June 2013 in Tokyo, and the third one is scheduled later this year.

More information @:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/japan/>

&  
<http://www.fratinivergano.eu/Trade%20perspectives%202013/13.05.31%20TP%20issue%2011.pdf> (see page 7).

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

### ACP: Conference on "Geography of Food" in Brussels

On May 15, a Conference on "Geography of food - Reconnecting with origin in the food system" was held at the ACP Secretariat in Brussels. The conference was organized by the EU-ACP Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), in collaboration with the Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development as well as the Directorate General for Development Cooperation and the ACP Secretariat.

The objective of the event was to raise awareness on some of the key challenges related to the marketing of origin-based products.

**An ad hoc informal meeting among international organizations and NGOs working on GIs was organized in the afternoon of the same day by Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, with the goal of promoting an exchange on their activities. The aim of this session was to map out activities being undertaken by some of the attendees in ACP countries, look at the needs, and identify potential synergies and scope for future cooperation. The CTA, ARIPO, the ACP Secretariat, UNIDO, FAO, WIPO, the University of Pretoria and oriGIn (we presented the state of the art of our compilation of all GIs protected in the world) attended the event.**

Further information @:  
<http://brusselsbriefings.net/2013/05/16/last-brussels-briefing-linking-food-geography-and-people/>

&  
[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/115\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/115_en.htm)

**Vietnam:  
Workshop on GI protection in Hanoi**

On May 20-22, a regional workshop on the protection of ASEAN's GIs was organised in Hanoi by the National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam.

The workshop was intended for ASEAN countries to come up with strategies for registering GIs in Southeast Asia and Europe. This event was organised within the framework of the EC-ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Cooperation programme (ECAP III) – an EU-funded by the EU and implemented from 2010-2013 to boost economic growth and reduce poverty in ASEAN nations through their integration in the global economy and international trading system.

It is interesting to note that the Deputy Head of the IP Office of Vietnam - Mr. Tran Huu Nam -stressed the key role of GI in promoting socio-economic development in rural and remote areas. Likewise, he mentioned that Vietnam has launched two support programmes for Vietnamese producers in response to the lack of information and experience in registering GIs at the national level and in other ASEAN countries.

More information @:

<http://en.vietnamplus.vn/Home/Workshop-to-protect-geographical-indications-held-in-Hanoi/20135/34650.vnplus>

&

<http://english.vov.vn/Society/Protecting-geographical-indication-a-must/260509.vov>

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