

Geneva, 07 July 2010

Re: Geographical Indications (GIs) in the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

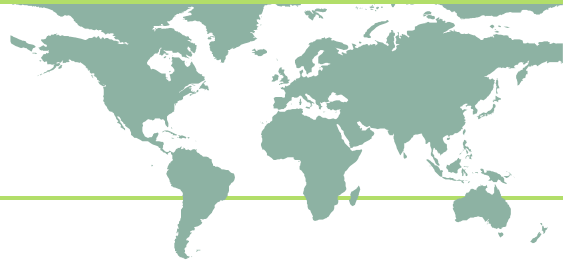
oriGIn is a worldwide network of Geographical Indications (GIs) representing 200 associations of producers from 40 countries, including some of the best known European GIs.

oriGIn has been closely following the negotiations of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). We support such an initiative aimed at strengthening the global enforcement of intellectual property rights and would like to take this opportunity to thank the European Parliament for its efforts to monitor the ACTA negotiations and ensure the interests of European citizens are reflected in the final text of the Agreement.

Following the last round of negotiations held earlier this month in Lucerne, we are particularly concerned with the possibility that an acceleration of talks towards the end of the year might lead to the exclusion of GIs from the scope of ACTA. On top of missing any legal or economic justification, such an outcome would be dangerous for consumers. On the one hand, as the TRIPs Agreement recognizes GIs as a separate category of intellectual property, together with patents, trademarks, copyright, we do not see the rationale for discriminating between GIs and other intellectual property rights within ACTA. On the other hand, the market of origin products is experiencing growing problems in terms of counterfeiting. Since GIs provide consumers with key information about the quality of products they wish to purchase, counterfeited GI products not only mislead consumers as to the true origin of the goods, but might also generate serious health problems.

In light of the above, we consider strategic the inclusion of GIs in the scope of ACTA as well as the application of border enforcement measures to GIs. This will protect both the





legitimate interests of GI producers that have developed their products throughout years of hard labor as well as the European consumers' health and well-being.

We do hope the European Parliament will continue encouraging the Commission to take those concerns into account and remain at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Bertozzi'.

Leo Bertozzi
Director,
Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano-
Reggiano
Vice-President, oriGIn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Enrique Garrigós'.

José Enrique Garrigós
President,
CRIGP Jijona y Turrón de Alicante
Vice-President, oriGIn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Amblard'.

Christian Amblard
Director,
Syndicat du Pruneau d'Agen
Member of Technical Committee, oriGIn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Fanti'.

Stefano Fanti
Director,
Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma
Member of Technical Committee, oriGIn

