



## ***Report on the European Commission Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on Quality and Promotion***

*oriGIn, Brussels, 21 November 2014*

The first meeting of the European Commission Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on Quality and Promotion took place in Brussels on 21 November 2014.

Among the most interesting topics discussed, the Commission presented some preliminary ideas on the possibilities for further simplification in the area of quality policy. A presentation delivered by the Commission (see the meeting documents) identified some of the differences among the 4 European Regulations on GIs in terms of definitions, procedures, legal protection and logos. The Commission stressed the fact that the simplification exercise is at an early stage, and it is keen to receive the comments of all interested stakeholders. On non-agricultural GIs, the Commission mentioned that it received 130 contributions to its “Public consultation on a possible extension of GI protection of the EU to non-agricultural products – Making the most out of Europe’s traditional know-how”. A conference will be organized in Brussels on 19 January 2015 (date to be confirmed) to discuss the way forward. oriGIn stressed the fact it supports the establishment of a community sui generis system to recognize and protect non-agricultural GIs, provided that this does not undermine or create confusion with the existing well-established European GIs systems. On GIs and new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs), the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to ensure a positive outcome for the “.wine” and “.vin” strings. oriGIn reaffirmed its worries about the risks of proliferation of GI abuse on the Internet in light of the introduction of 1.300 new gTLDs as well as the lack of mechanisms to protect GIs in traditional (“.com, etc..”) as well as new gTLDs (“.food”, “.coffee.”, “.pizza”, “.bio”, etc.). Moreover, oriGIn asked the Commission to have a periodical update on the ongoing reform of the Community trade mark system. On promotion issues, the Commission informed the Group that the delegated and implementing acts of Regulation 1144/2014/EU on information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products implemented in the internal market and in third countries will be adopted in September 2015 (see a detailed presentation on this issue included in the meeting documents). On promotion, you will also find some interesting information about the European Commission planned initiatives at Expo 2015 (see the meeting documents).