

DACIAN CIOLOȘ

Member of the European Commission

KAREL DE GUCHT

Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 19.06.2013
D(2013)1800866

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 April 2013 sent to President Barroso, who has asked us to reply on his behalf.

We very much welcome this useful contribution in which you outline the views and priorities of your organisation with regard to the forthcoming negotiations for a Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP) with the United States.

An enhanced protection of EU Geographical Indications in the US is an important element of the TTIP negotiations since, as indicated in your letter, there are significant shortcomings in the US system which does not provide an adequate protection to EU PDO/PGI.

As you rightly mention in your letter, pragmatic solutions will need to be explored, with a view to show the clear benefits that an increased protection of Geographical Indications would create also for the growing number of US products that focus on a closer association between origin and quality. Napa Valley wine, already recognised by the EU as a Geographical Indication, is a case in point.

We would like to thank your organisation for the active role and valuable support provided to our negotiating team at this early stage.

Yours sincerely,

Dacian Cioloș

Karel De Gucht

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