

**For the courteous attention of Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and Commissioner Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development**

In copy:

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**Object: Geographical Indications and the EU's Counterfeit and Piracy Watch List**

Dear Commissioners,

EFOW, the **European Federation of Origin Wines** ([www.efow.eu](http://www.efow.eu)), the Brussels based organisation representing Geographical Indication (GI) wines towards European and international institutions, and oriGIn EU, **the European antenna of the global alliance of geographical Indications (GIs) groups** (<https://www.origin-gi.com>), would like to bring to your attention some **considerations on the EU's "Counterfeit and Piracy Watch List" published on 7 December 2018.**

EFOW and oriGIn EU highly welcome the EC initiative to release its first ever "Counterfeit and Piracy Watch List" **naming** websites and marketplaces outside the EU which engage in, facilitate or benefit from counterfeiting and hence threaten EU legitimate intellectual property-driven businesses.

However, our organisations were surprised to note that the EC "Counterfeit and Piracy Watch List" does not take into consideration GIs. GIs are an indispensable IPRs tool for the agricultural sector, which helps preserve and protect a specific and geographically based know-how throughout the EU and around the globe. EU GIs have become a symbol of high quality recognised by consumers internationally and face a growing number of imitations and usurpations both on physical marketplaces and on the online world.

The US, a fierce opponent of GIs, publishes on a yearly basis a Special Report on alleged inadequacy of trading partners' protection of US intellectual property rights. While from a different perspective, such report always includes a chapter on GIs.

We hence urge the EC to include in its future "Counterfeit and Piracy Watch List" a specific chapter on GI protection.

Our organisation's Secretariat remain at your complete disposal for any further information.

Yours faithfully,



Bernard Farges  
EFOW's President



Claude Vermot-Desroches  
EU oriGIn's President