



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 6 October 2021
(OR. en)

12520/21

AGRI 462
AGRISTR 67
AGRIORG 111

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Common declaration on the revision of the European agri-food quality policy to strengthen the geographical indications schemes

- Information from the Spanish delegation, on behalf of the Austrian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Cyprus, Czech Republic, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak and Spanish delegations

Delegations will find in the Annex a common declaration of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain on the revision of the European agri-food quality policy to strengthen the geographical indication schemes, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 11-12 October 2021.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 11-12 October 2021

Common declaration of AT, BG, HR, CY, CZ, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SK, ES on the revision of the European agri-food quality policy to strengthen the geographical indication schemes

- Welcome the opportunity to strengthen the quality schemes for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines and spirit drinks in the forthcoming legislative review;
- Recall that the European quality policy has proven its effectiveness and relevance, and is fully in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy;
- Recall that European quality schemes contribute in particular to the preservation and promotion of the European agricultural, food and cultural model, including at the international level, enable the creation of added value for economic actors, fully participate in the development of rural areas, provide consumers with typical, quality products and guarantee recognition and protection of the names of these products;
- Consider that European quality schemes must remain attractive to producers and recognised by consumers in a changing social, economic, technical and climatic context;
- Request that efforts to communicate and to raise the awareness of those schemes and their symbols be continued;
- Consider that the guarantees pursued for each of the indications (PDO, PGI, GI, TSG) must be reinforced by means of demanding legislation and believe that the voluntary consideration of sustainability must be encouraged while maintaining a balance between attractiveness and constraints for operators;

- Expect the legislation on geographical indications to continue to take into account the specificities of each sector, in line with the experience acquired, but with an easy-to-understand regulation.
 - Consider that controls and effective enforcement of GIs are essential to the proper implementation of European quality policy and must be strengthened, including the domain names systems, very important in online market;
 - Consider that the collective governance of GIs by their representative groups is an essential asset and that improving this governance is a factor in their success and development;
 - Are attached to the scrutiny of applications by the European Union to guarantee fair treatment between operators and Member States, and consider that the necessary simplification of procedures must not jeopardise the reliability of the consolidated EU GIs system or lengthen the delays of procedures.
-