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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries”
Council on 23-24 June 2025:
The protection of traditional names of animal origin food
*- Information from Czechia, Austria, Hungary, Italy and Slovakia supported
by France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Spain*

Today, the food market in the European Union is increasingly composed of products that consist only of plant-based ingredients and are similar in appearance, taste and consistency to products of animal origin. These plant-based foods are very often labelled with the names belonging to meat, eggs, honey, fish and products made from them.

However, plant-based products differ substantially from food products of animal origin, particularly in terms of composition and nutritional value. It is therefore essential that foods which imitate, mimic or substitute foods of animal origin do not mislead the consumer by their labelling as to their true nature.

Protection of names has long been established at EU level in the form of reserved names in the dairy sector, which is provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. However, no other protection of food names is in place at EU level and some Member States are therefore considering the introduction of reserved names for other food of animal origin at national levels.

The harmonisation of legal protection could be provided within the framework of the planned revision of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products.

On the basis of the above reasons, Czechia together with Austria, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain, call on the European Commission to submit a legislative proposal to protect the names of food of animal origin, providing them with the similar long-standing protection as milk and dairy products. This would ensure the protection of meat, eggs, honey, fish and selected products made from them, the protection of consumers from misleading information and the prevention of regulatory fragmentation in the EU by adopting different arrangements in Member States.
