



AREPO POSITION ON THE PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS TOWARDS US TARIFFS

Whereas:

- The 1.430 Geographical Indications (GIs) for foodstuffs - PDO and PGI registered by the European Commission (EC) - are collective intellectual property rights;
- Several hundred GIs are still undergoing the registration procedure in the Member States or by the EC, and other are likely to follow;
- GIs recognise and protect products whose specificities are, at least in part, due to their territories of origin, with their inherent natural and human factors, representing a whole section of European agricultural and food culture;
- The misuse, imitation and evocation of GIs in international trade are increasing, to the detriment of both consumers and certified producers, these abuses endangering the overall economic sustainability of GI sector as well as local communities;
- The European GIs represent an annual turnover of at least 60 billion euros of which 15 billion represent food GIs;
- The total value of GIs products exported outside EU is estimated at € 15 billion, of which € 1,5 billion represent food GIs;
- USA represent 30% of the total value of exported European GIs products;
- US Government decision of imposing additional duties to a list of EU products which affects, among others, several EU Geographical Indications;
- These duties resulted from a legal dispute which concerned a different domain than the agri-food sector;

The Association of European Regions for Products of origin (AREPO) firmly opposes the US government decision of imposing additional duties on EU goods, particularly those striking specific EU Geographical Indications.

With the purpose of offsetting the effect of US tariffs, AREPO demands:

1) The integration of the crisis reserve fund to be used to support the affected producers;

2) A share of resources to be destined to GI consortia for the legal protection in countries not covered by bilateral agreements;

3) The provision for priority scores for projects submitted under Regulation 1144/ 2014 by GIs affected by tariffs with the aim of carrying out promotional actions in those markets subject to them.

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