



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications
The Director

Brussels
AGRI.F.3/

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your email of 20 March 2024 raising two questions on eligibility of certain names for registration as traditional speciality guaranteed (TSG).

Names of proteins are not eligible for registration as TSG. Proteins are neither listed among the agricultural products in Annex I of the Treaty nor among the specific TSG products in Annex I, part II, of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012. They have not been listed either in Annex II of the new Regulation on Geographical Indications which will enter into force in May.

In contrast, ‘Goat cheese’ would be an eligible name for TSG registration, although we wonder whether such a registration may be of any use.

‘Goat cheese’ is a name generically designating a very common product, produced in many Member States. It seems obvious that each of these Member States has its own specific traditional method to produce it. It is also a name that potentially covers many different methodologies and types of cheese, the only common element being the raw material. Therefore, it would be difficult to have shared production rules for the product specification of all the products designated under the name ‘goat cheese’.

A strict product specification would trigger several oppositions from quite a number of Member States, which could lead to the rejection of the application or, in the most favourable case, to the obligation that the registered name is accompanied by the claim ‘made following the tradition of Greece’. This would considerably reduce the protection of that name since the name ‘goat cheese’ could continue to be used to designate products that are produced not complying with the product specification.

On the other hand, a loose product specification would be of negligible use. Standards exist already for a product to be marketed as goat cheese. The registration as TSG would not identify a traditional product different from the corresponding commodity and would be of no added value.

Ms [REDACTED] - mails: [REDACTED]@minagric.gr; [REDACTED]@minagric.gr

The present opinion is provided based on the facts as set out in your email and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving European Union law, it is for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable European Union law.

Yours faithfully,



Diego CANGA FANO