



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications
The Director

Brussels

AGRI.F.3 [REDACTED]

Subject: Request of interpretation of Article 37(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, obligation to indicate the name of the producer or operator in the labelling, in the same field of vision of the geographical indication

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2025 requesting an interpretation of Article 37(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 ⁽¹⁾, in particular as regards the obligation to indicate in the label, in the same field of vision of the geographical indication, the name of the producer of the product designated by the geographical indication.

This email follows another email on the same issue to which we replied by letter of 14 October 2024 (ref. ARES (2024)7290699).

We take note of your concern that indicating the producer or economic operator could result in the disclosure of information typically protected under antitrust regulations or considered business secrets in the case of private label or contract manufacturing. However, this is what the legislation provides for. When the provision at stake will become applicable, that disclosure will become not only allowed but mandatory.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 (hereinafter ‘the Regulation’) of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 11 April 2024, on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialities guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products, amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2019/787 and (EU) 2019/1753 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012

[REDACTED], Leiterin Büro Brüssel/Head of Brussels Office

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CC.

[REDACTED]

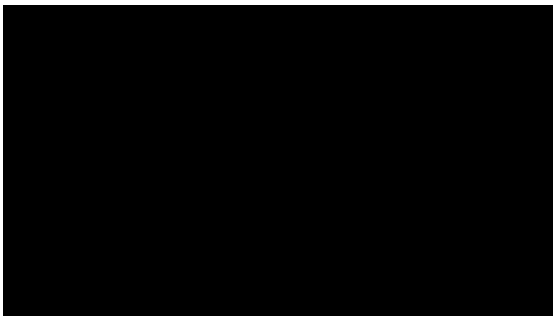
The alternatives proposed are not acceptable. What the provision clearly requires is that the physical producer of the product is indicated, not the customer commissioning the private-label or contract manufacturing, not the producer organization, not the food business operator. The co-legislators included that provision with the explicit purpose to increase the visibility of the effective producer of the product.

As regards the meaning of the term ‘operator’, we kindly ask you to refer to our previous reply of 14 October 2024.

We would like to remind that it is not mandatory to reproduce the name of the producer of the GI (for food and spirit drinks sectors) or of the GI operator (for the food sector only) in the same field of vision of the registered GI name each time the GI name appears on the label. The name of the producer (or operator for agricultural products) of the GI should appear at least once on the label (in the same field of vision of the GI name). In addition, in view of the objectives of the Regulation, it is not mandatory to have the name of the producer/operator in the front label. It may be mentioned only in the back label.

The present opinion is provided based on the facts as set out in your email of 9 January 2025 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