



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications  
The Director

Brussels  
AGRI.F.3

**Subject: Questions on Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG)**

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your mail of 8 April 2025 asking some questions on the interpretation of certain provisions of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 concerning Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG).

To qualify as a TSG producer group, it is not necessary that the group is created *ad hoc* for the application of the TSG. An association of producers of a product may exist since a long time and decide to apply for registration of the name of the product they produce as TSG at any time.

Article 55(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 allows the enlargement of the membership of a TSG producer group to stakeholders or representatives of activities linked to a specific stage of the production of the product. Although these entities may not be (fully) considered as producers of the product designated as TSG, they may however be admitted in the group, if they have a specific interest in the product and, provided that they do not take the control of the group. So, they can be part of the group but may not become majority thereof.

A joint application (meaning an application which is prepared by groups established in more than one country or by one European group representing producers in more than one country) may be lodged—with the national authorities of each of the concerned countries—also by a European association of producers (which would be the same entity lodging the application in all the countries), following the specific legislation of those Member States or third countries. Applications may not be directly submitted by the producer group to the Commission. A joint application must be submitted to the Commission by one country only, which could be a Member State or a third country (Article 58(3) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143). It will be for that country or Member State to coordinate directly with the other Member State concerned.

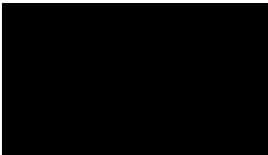
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“Own controls” are provided for in the Official Controls Regulation (Article 9(1)(d) and Article 26(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625). Own controls are under the responsibility of producers/producer groups for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the product specification of the TSG products. They are part of the general framework/requirements of the official controls system, but they are not official controls. In case of established non-compliance, the competent authority may order the producer/producer group to increase the frequency of its own controls. The wording in Article 55(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, on producer groups managing own controls of their members, means that the TSG producer groups may have the responsibility to manage the internal controls of their members. They have the free choice on how to carry them out. They must have adequate human and technical resources and put in place written procedures for this purpose. However, as these “own controls” performed by the producer groups are not “official controls”, the producer groups do not have to be accredited for that. The official control tasks remain under the remit and responsibility of the competent authorities and/or delegated bodies and/or natural persons to which certain control tasks have been delegated.

The above information is based solely on the facts set out in your mail of 8 April 2025, expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Diego CANGA FANO.

Diego CANGA FANO