



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications  
The Director

Brussels  
AGRI.F.3 [REDACTED]

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your email of 22 April 2025, in which you ask for clarification of the rules concerning the use of the EU symbol for geographical indications.

You ask whether, in light of Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 <sup>(1)</sup>, it is permissible for a restaurant to use the EU GI symbol in its menu for a dish prepared using a geographical indication as an ingredient. As an example, you refer to a dish such as a doughnut with poppy seeds with PGI name “Český modrý mák”.

Subject to your assessment of the specific case at stake, I would like to draw your attention to the following provisions.

First, please note that the use of Union symbols for GIs (PDO/PGI) is restricted to the products registered as geographical indications. This is set out in Article 37 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, which states that: “*symbols referring to geographical indications shall not be used other than in connection with products produced in compliance with the relevant product specification.*”

Second, Article 37(7) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 provides that: “*Indications and abbreviations may be used in the labelling and advertising material of processed products when the geographical indication refers to an ingredient thereof. In that case, the indication or abbreviation shall be placed next to the name of the ingredient that is clearly identified as an ingredient. The Union symbol shall not be placed in association with the name of the food within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011.*”

Consequently, the Union symbol must not be placed in association with the name of a processed product prepared using a product designated by a geographical indication as an

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 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, OJ L, 2024/1143, 23.4.2024.

ingredient. However, in line with Article 27(1) and the first sentence of Article 37(7) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, producers are allowed to use on the labelling and advertising material of such processed products: 1) the indications (*protected designation of origin* or *protected geographical indications*) and 2) the abbreviations (*PDO* or *PGI*). In that case, the indication or abbreviation must be placed next to the name of the PDO/PGI ingredient that is clearly identified as an ingredient.

In light of the above and subject to your assessment of the specific case at stake, I conclude that the Union symbol must not be placed on the restaurant's menu in association with the doughnut that contains PGI "Český modrý mák" as an ingredient. Only the indication – "*protected geographical indication*" and the abbreviation "*PGI*", can be placed appropriately next to the ingredient's name.

I hope these elements help you assess and clarify the situation in order to ensure the correct implementation of the EU legislation. The national authorities play a key role in ensuring correct implementation of EU legislation while the services of the Commission support these efforts by providing online information, organising exchanges in committee and expert group meetings, and replying to your questions.

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,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Diego Canga Fano.

Diego CANGA FANO