



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

Brussels
AGRI.F.3/CM

**Subject: Eligibility of applicant groups for the EU registration of Turkish
Geographical Indications**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 October 2025 (our ref. Ares(2025)8966482), in which you request clarification on eligible applicant groups for the purpose of applying for the registration of a Turkish geographical indication (GI) in the European Union.

We welcome Türkiye's continued engagement in protecting and promoting names identifying products originating in its regions. The applicable legal framework is Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products.

Under Article 14(2) of that Regulation, applications for registration of a geographical indication originating in a non-EU country must be submitted by “a *producer group* which works with a product, the name of which is proposed for registration”. A producer group is an association of producers who work with a product, the name of which is proposed for registration.

Regarding your first question, the Regulation does not require a producer group to be exclusively dedicated to a single product. What matters is that, for the purpose of the application, the group mainly brings together producers who are directly involved in the production of the product, the name of which is proposed for registration. The group may therefore include other members, provided that the group is mainly composed of members engaged in the production of the product designated by the geographical indication. We

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

draw your attention to the fact that, irrespective of the other activities of the producers composing the group, the producer group should be in a position to demonstrate that it is mainly composed of producers of the product, the name of which is proposed for registration.

As regards your second question, Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 does not provide applicable rules on the role that public bodies and other organisations – such as Chambers of Agriculture, Commodity Exchanges or Chambers of Commerce and Industry – may have in non-EU countries. Therefore, these bodies may act in line with the national rules applicable in Türkiye. However, they cannot themselves act as applicants if they do not meet the definition of a producer group.

For Turkish GIs, applications must be transmitted to the European Commission either directly by the eligible producer group or via the authorities in Türkiye, in accordance with Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143. Even if the application is sent via the authorities, it is always necessary to be able to demonstrate that there is an existing eligible applicant producer group applying for the registration.

This reply is based solely on the facts set out in your email of 20 October 2025. It 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