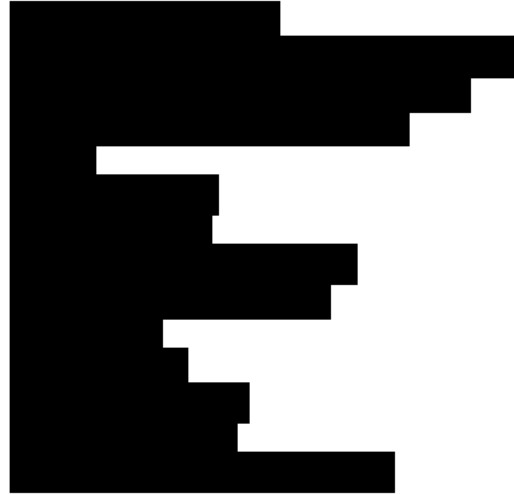




EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications
The Director

Brussels
AGRI.F.3/



Subject: Evocation of GI ‘Ouzo’ / ‘Ούζο’ in trade marks

Dear ,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2026 in which you explain your concerns about the potential evocation of the spirit drinks geographical indication (GI) ‘Ouzo’ / ‘Ούζο’ by certain trade marks registered by EUIPO in relation to products that do not comply with the product specification of the GI ‘Ouzo’ / ‘Ούζο’.

We take note of your assessment that the use of the trademarks “ouzero” and “ou%o” registered for non-alcoholic beverages should be considered as an attempt to exploit the reputation of the protected name ‘Ouzo’/‘Ούζο’, which should accordingly be considered as evocation.

However, the Commission does not have the competence to engage in legal action on cases linked to the protection of individual geographical indications. It would be the responsibility of the concerned producers or producer groups to engage in appropriate action to ensure protection of the geographical indication and of the intellectual property rights that are directly connected with it, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on the European Union trade mark.

The present opinion is provided based on the information included 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 sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Diego CANGA FANO.

Diego CANGA FANO

c.c.:

A black rectangular box redacting the list of recipients in the c.c. field.