



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

Brussels
AGRI.F.3/AN_N



Subject: Inquiry regarding whether "Buffalomozzarella" is an infringement of the PDO "Mozzarella di Bufala Campana"

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 March 2026 (ref: Ares(2026)2972190) enquiring whether the use of certain product names can constitute an infringement of the registered geographical indication name "Mozzarella di Bufala Campana" PDO, in particular the use of the names "*Buffalomozzarella*" or "*Mozzarella made from buffalo milk*".

Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 defines the rules on protection of geographical indications in Article 26, including protection of the registered names against any misuse, imitation or evocation, even if the true origin of the products or services is indicated (Article 26(1)(b)).

In principle, and provided the labelling of the product concerned does not otherwise refer to the Italian geographical area of origin concerned, i.e. the region of Campania, the use of names such as "Buffalomozzarella" and "Mozzarella made from buffalo milk" would not seem to constitute an evocation of the PDO name "Mozzarella di Bufala Campana" as they seem to be common names describing the product.

In any event, it is the responsibility of national authorities to assess the specific cases of potential breach of the protection of protected designation of origin or protected geographical indications that may occur in their territory. National authorities have the obligation to take the appropriate measures to prevent or stop the use of names that could constitute misuse, imitation or evocation of a protected name. This is extremely important also in order to avoid misleading the consumers.

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.:

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