



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 mail of 5 November 2024, in which you enquire about the preparation of the application files for the registration of two new Flemish beers ‘Vlaams roodbruin bier / Flanders Red Ale’ and ‘Schaarbeekse kriek’ as PGI.

You explain that for the production of ‘Vlaams roodbruin bier / Flanders Red Ale’, breweries often apply their own special blend – while respecting the conditions of the product specification. In addition to several mandatory labelling elements, the breweries are allowed to mention this specific blend on the label in case they wish to do so. You enquire whether a text providing for the obligation to use the registered name and the logo in the label and for the possibility to indicate a specific combination (blend) of the ‘Vlaams roodbruin bier / Flanders Red Ale’ should be included both in the product specification and the single document or if a mention in the product specification alone suffices.

The option to indicate the special blend on the label is a specific rule concerning the labelling. We advise you to include it also in the single document, as provided in Article 50(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143. However, rules that repeat mandatory provisions of the Regulation, such as the obligation that the label bear the Union PGI logo as well as the registered name, should be included neither in the product specification, nor in the single document.

Concerning the beer “Schaarbeekse kriek”, you ask whether the following text regarding labelling can be included in the product specification and single document: *“In accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 2024/1143, the labels shall contain the Union PGI symbol and the registered name ‘Schaarbeekse Kriek’. It is mandatory to state the name of the brewery, as well as the name of the municipality where the brewery is located, on the labels.”*

The first sentence should not be included, as per the above explanations. Regarding the second sentence, per Article 37(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, where agricultural products are designated by a geographical indication, an indication of the name of the producer or operator shall appear in the labelling, in the same field of vision as the geographical indication. In that case, the name of the operator shall be understood as the name of the operator responsible for the production stage at which the product to be

[REDACTED]
Vlaamse overheid
Agentschap Landbouw en Zeevisserij
Email: [REDACTED]@lv.vlaanderen.be

covered by the geographical indication is obtained, or responsible for carrying out substantial processing of that product.

The indication of the municipality where the product is made falls under the Food Information to Consumers legislation (Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011), which states, in Article 9(1)(h), that the indication of the name or business name and address of the food business operator shall be mandatory.

For both the producer/operator and the address, since these rules are just repeating provisions of existing Union legislation, they should be included neither in the product specification nor in the single document.

The above information is based solely on the facts set out in your message of 5 November 2024, 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,

Diego CANGA FANO