



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

Brussels  
AGRI.F.3

**Subject:** Reply to the question regarding an amendment of the PGI “Suomalainen Vodka/Finsk Vodka/Vodka of Finland”

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your email of 16 February 2024 concerning the amendment process of the product specification of the PGI “Suomalainen Vodka/Finsk Vodka/Vodka of Finland”.

You mention that the applicant group would like to apply for the amendment of the product specification of “Suomalainen Vodka/Finsk Vodka/Vodka of Finland” due to fact that today many companies do not have a distillery in Finland and the raw materials may come from outside Finland. You recall that the technical file states that: “It is distilled in Finland from either Finnish grain or potato.”

According to the current version of the product specification of “Suomalainen Vodka/Finsk Vodka/Vodka of Finland”, the link of this PGI with its geographical origin results from the northern growing conditions of the raw materials, the clear source water or groundwater, production methods passed on from one generation to the next (the skills and knowledge of local operators) and the distillation methods.

As specified in Article 31(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2019/787, an amendment that risks voiding the given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the spirit drink that is essentially attributable to its geographical origin, shall be considered a Union amendment.

On the basis of the information provided, it seems that the above-mentioned amendments would fall within the definition of a Union amendment.

Please note that in any case, the following rule must be respected: the production steps which give the spirit drink the quality, reputation or other characteristic shall take place in the relevant geographical area (Article 35(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/787).

Ms [REDACTED]  
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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,



Diego CANGA FANO