



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications
The Director

Brussels

AGRI.F.3/

Subject: Unlawful use of Italian Geographical Indications in a processed product in France

Dear Sir,

Thank you for sending for information to the Commission, DG AGRI, Unit responsible for Geographical Indications, an e-mail addressed to INAO (France authority responsible for the Intellectual Property in the sector of the agricultural geographical indications) on cases of unlawful use of Italian Geographical Indications in a processed product in France.

In particular your e-mail addresses the alleged misapplication in France of Article 27 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 on the *use of geographical indications designating a product used as an ingredient in the name of a processed product*.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that Article 27(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 applies when a GI designating a product which is an ingredient of a final prepacked processed product is used in the sales name of that final processed product. It does not apply to the use of a GI designating a product which is an ingredient of a final processed product on the label where the GI is *not* part of the sales name of the final processed product, even if emphasised. In those cases, Article 27(1) applies, together with the standard rules of protection of GIs, such as Article 26.

Mr [redacted] Head of ICQRF exofficio <[redacted]@masaf.gov.it>

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In addition, we would like to point out that the obligation to notify such uses is in any event not yet into force as regards the three geographical indications listed in the label of the final processed product at stake. Italy has not yet notified the Commission of the names and addresses of the recognised producer groups for the protected designations of origin ‘Gorgonzola’, ‘Grana Padano’ and ‘Parmigiano Reggiano’. This notification is necessary to designate, at EU level, the recognised producer group for each GI (Article 33(8) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143). As long as a recognised producer group is not designated, via that procedure, it does not exist at EU level. Therefore, at present, no obligation of notification under Article 27(2) is applicable in respect of the three Italian PDOs mentioned above.

When the Commission, after receiving the information on the recognised producer groups of each PDO, will have made it public in the Union register (the database eAmbrosia public), Article 27(2) will become applicable. Its application will not be retroactive.

Should the Italian authorities wish to notify recognised producer groups for these and other registered geographical indications, we invite you to complete the excel table shared in CircaBc, as indicated during the GREX on Quality Policy on 7 October 2024, and attached again to this letter, and return it to DG AGRI at AGRI-GEOGRAPHICAL-INDICATIONS@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,



Diego CANGA FANO

Enclosure: Excel table for the communication of recognised producer groups