

**Question for written answer E-007047/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Amendment of the specification for ovos-moles, PGI

Ovos-moles (sweet eggs) are a traditional product of the Aveiro region. The European Union has already registered the PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) status of this product.

Recently, as a result of a partnership with Aveiro University, a method of freezing has been developed that preserves all the product's organoleptic qualities. This new technology makes it possible to extend the product's shelf life and significantly widens export opportunities.

Through the producer association APOMA (*Associação de Produtores de Ovos-Moles de Aveiro*), which drives the whole certification process, large numbers of exploratory contacts have already been developed with a view to opening up marketing channels in various countries within and outside the EU. These opportunities could help to create hundreds of jobs. The net contribution to the trade balance is total, since the products and services included are exclusively endogenous.

In the meantime, an application has been submitted to the Commission to amend the Specification for *Ovos-Moles de Aveiro*, PGI, with a view to incorporating the deep-freezing process. I ask the Commission what stage the proceedings have reached and when it expects the matter to be resolved so that producers can exploit this business potential.