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Answer given by Mr. Hogan  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(12.10.2018)

Prior to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the EU (CETA), Canadian legislation did not provide for the protection of food geographical indications (GIs). Following CETA, Canada amended its Trademarks Act to expand its pre-existing system for the protection of wines and spirits GIs to food GIs.

In addition, CETA provides for the direct protection in Canada of 143 European food GIs out of which 41 are Italian. In the absence of CETA, these GIs would not be protected in Canada. The Commission considers this as a major improvement for European producers.

Furthermore, Article 20.19 paragraph 4 of CETA makes it clear that Canada has to provide for administrative action in respect of complaints related to the labelling of products in particular when it is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding their origin.

During the first meeting of the CETA GI Committee<sup>1</sup>, the Commission raised concerns about the enforcement of GI protection in Canada, and discussed with Canada's domestic enforcement procedures.

The Commission encourages EU GI rights-holders to submit complaints whenever they suspect an infringement of protected GIs. The Commission's services are in close contact with their Canadian counterparts to ensure that they engage in appropriate follow-up actions to any such complaints.

Finally, according to Eurostat EU exports of Parmigiano Reggiano and Grana Padano to Canada increased by 7% in volume during the period January-June 2018 as compared to the same period in 2017 (from 1.92 tonnes to 2.06 tonnes).

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<sup>1</sup> [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/june/tradoc\\_156975.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/june/tradoc_156975.pdf)