



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on International Trade*

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**2015/2053(INI)**

15.4.2015

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on the possible extension of geographical indication protection of the European Union to non-agricultural products

(2015/2053(INI))

Rapporteur: Alessia Maria Mosca

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## **SUGGESTIONS**

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the importance of geographical indications (GIs) in the broader spectrum of intellectual property rights, and the key role played by IPR in EU trade policy;
2. Recalls that it would be highly recommended for the European Union to adopt legislation on non-agricultural GIs, in order to increase the distinctiveness and fully exploit the potential of protected products;
3. Stresses that the recognition of protection of non-agricultural GIs is both a defensive and offensive interest in the framework of the common commercial policy and it can be an effective tool in countering imitation and counterfeit products and in ensuring fair competition;
4. Is of the opinion that a coherent, simple and bureaucratically and economically non-burdensome EU-level system of GI protection for non-agricultural products would enable the EU to achieve similar protection for such European products outside the EU in the framework of international trade negotiations;
5. Considers that the protection of non-agricultural GIs at EU level would be a positive signal for the ongoing discussions on GIs at multilateral level and that it is fully in line with the TRIPS Agreement;
6. Is of the opinion that the creation of a single EU-level protection of non-agricultural GIs that includes a registration scheme recognised at EU level, without lowering the standards of protection already existing in some Member States, would be the best way to be more effective both within the EU and in negotiations with third countries;
7. Calls on the Commission to include a coherent and well prepared strategy on all GIs in the upcoming communication on the EU's trade and investment strategy.