

AMENDMENT 51

by Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report**A6-0034/2006****Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf**

Protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2005)0698 – C6-0027/2006 – 2005/0275(CNS))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 51

Article 2, paragraph 1, subparagraph b, indent 3

– the production, processing or preparation of which take place in the defined geographical area.

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After an appropriate transitional period, and at any rate no later than ten years after the entry into force of this regulation, all production, preparation or processing activities must take place within the defined geographical area.

If raw materials come from a geographical area larger than or different from the processing area, this may be approved by means of the procedure referred to in Article 15(2), provided that:

(i) the production area of the raw materials is defined,

(ii) special conditions for the production of the raw materials exist, and

(iii) there are inspection arrangements to ensure that the conditions referred to in point (ii) are adhered to

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Justification

Standards for the manufacture of products whose geographical origin is protected must prevent abuses by means of massive imports of raw materials into the area in question. Only on the basis of sufficiently strict provisions will the EU be able to persuade WTO trading partners to accept geographical indications. In justified cases, obtaining raw materials from a larger area may be permitted, in which case the criteria laid down in Article 2(3) should be applied in order to prevent abuses. Moreover, provision should be made for an appropriate transitional period to allow production processes and specifications to be adjusted.