

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0164/09
by Urszula Gacek (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: 'Prądnicki bread' - Application for protected geographical indication for agricultural products and foodstuffs

'Prądnicki bread' (*chleb prądnicki*) is a type of bread produced in the Krakow region of Poland.

It is a black bread baked from a traditional recipe using rye leavening. Its main feature is its large size, which entails a lengthy production process requiring special bread making skills.

Its name derives from the place where it was originally produced, the village of Prądnik, which is today a part of Krakow. The first mention of this type of bread being baked in the village date back to 1421, when Albert, Bishop of Krakow, granted his cook, Świetosław Skowronek, a small piece of land, with the obligation that the inhabitants provide bread for the bishop's table. The bread was sold at Szczepański square in Krakow until 1863 and later at market stalls on św Ducha square.

Prądnicki bread features regularly at the Bread Festival held annually in Krakow since 2004 and, thanks to its outstanding quality and exceptional taste, has won the Malopolska Taste award.

The name 'Prądnicki bread' can be used only to describe bread produced in bakeries within the municipal area of the city of Krakow using the traditional 15th century recipe. At present there is a single producer, but if other producers emerge they would have to undergo a standard certification procedure to ensure that the product met the specifications laid down.

On 10 October 2005, Prądnicki bread was added to the register of Polish traditional products.

An application for Prądnicki bread to be registered as a protected geographical indication was submitted to the Commission following the decision of 17 April 2008 of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006¹ of 20 March 2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Obtaining the protected geographical indication would enhance the competitiveness of this product and help preserve the tradition and cultural heritage of the Malapolska region.

In my capacity as a Member of Parliament for the Malapolska region, I should like to ask the following questions:

- What progress has been made in considering the above application for registration?
- When can a decision from the Commission on this matter be expected?

¹ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12