

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0225/09

by Urszula Gacek (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: 'Zator carp' - Application to register a geographical indication for an agricultural product or foodstuff

The Zator carp is a hybrid which results from crossing a pure Zator carp with other pure breeds: Hungarian, Yugoslav, 'gołyska' and Israeli. Zator carp is produced in three neighbouring municipalities of Małopolska: Zator, Przeciszów, in the Oświęcim district, and Spytkowice in the Wadowice district.

Since 2003 these municipalities have been cooperating on a project called 'Carp Valley' (*Dolina Karpia*). The Zator carp is produced in a geographic area covering a total of 134 km².

Carp Valley comprises a series of fish-breeding ponds and gravel pits, which make up 22% of the area of the municipality. The main fish-breeding ponds are Przeręb, Spytkowice, Laskowa, Bugaj and Rudze, and the main excavation sites are Garboszyce, Trzebieńczyce and Podolsze.

The carp-breeding centre in Zator is one of the oldest in the region. The beginnings of fishing and carp-breeding in Zator date back to the reign of Bolesław Wrymouth (1086-1138), who passed on the Zator lands to his son Władysław (1105-1159). In 1291 three mills were built on the river Skawa, while in Bachowice permission was given to restore the lake created by the flooding of the Vistula and to start a fishery.

According to information from the Polish Agriculture Ministry of 26 June 2007, the application to register the 'Zator carp' as a protected geographical indication was sent to the Commission by decision of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on 23 April 2007 in accordance with the Act of 17 December 2004 on the registration and protection of geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs and on traditional products.

The award of a protected geographical indication will make this product more competitive and will help to protect the traditions and cultural heritage of the Małopolska region.

As an MEP for the Małopolska region, I should like to enquire:

- what stage has been reached in the processing of the above application?
- when the Commission expects to take a decision on the matter?
- why the application to register the Zator carp has been waiting for a decision from the Commission for over a year and a half?