

**Question for written answer E-011463/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Protection of geographical indications in the context of agricultural and food fairs in the EU

Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs guarantees comprehensive protection for protected denominations of origin (PDOs) and protected geographical indications (PGIs).

Protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications for wines, as dealt with in Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 (Single CMO Regulation), and geographical indications for spirit drinks, as dealt with in Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, enjoy very similar protection.

Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 (Single CMO Regulation) provides for automatic protection for protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications for wines (Article 118m(4)).

The proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, 2010/0353(COD), which was approved by Parliament on 13 September 2012, adopted by the Council on 13 November 2012 and will shortly be published in the Official Journal of the European Union, broadens the scope of protection to cover services, enhances the effectiveness of the checks designed to prevent misuse, imitation or evocation and explicitly introduces automatic protection (Article 13(3)).

In recent years an increasing number of cases have come to light at international food fairs and exhibitions held in the EU (for example Anuga 2009, Anuga 2011 and SIAL 2012) involving products named in violation of geographical indications protected under current law. Although the efforts made by producer associations to secure legal protection by means of applications to national courts have proved successful, the same cannot be said of the efforts made by the competent authorities of the Member States to ensure that all market operators respect geographical indications.

What steps does the Commission plan to take in order to guarantee automatic protection of geographical indications in the context of fairs and exhibitions involving agricultural products and foodstuffs, wines and spirit drinks held in the EU?

How does the Commission intend to ensure that the principles outlined above are also observed by the organisers of such fairs and exhibitions?