

**Question for written answer E-004554/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Protected geographical indication for manufactured products

The EU has successfully established three systems to promote and protect the designations of high-quality agricultural and food products: PDO (protected designation of origin), PGI (protected geographical indication) and TSG (traditional speciality guaranteed).

These three labels for agricultural products mean that product names are now protected against usurpation and imitation, and consumers are provided with helpful information about the specific characteristics of the products.

It would now be worthwhile extending this protection so that it covers not only agricultural or food products, but also products manufactured using clearly defined manufacturing methods in the target geographical areas.

A considerable number of these products have established a strong reputation in the EU, for example Marseille soap, Laguiole knives and Limoges porcelain, but they are counterfeited because of the lack of appropriate protection.

Soaps can be found on sale which are stamped 'Marseille soap' but come from Asia, and which ignore both the original quality of the product, since chemicals are used instead of natural ingredients, and of course its geographical origin.

This unfair competition poses a direct threat to jobs in the EU, as well as reducing the income of legitimate producers and affecting the reputation of their products.

Given that the conclusions of a study commissioned by the Commission recommend the implementation of a *sui generis* system of protection for non-agricultural products at EU level, will the Commission propose the introduction of a geographical indication to protect traditional manufactured products by 2014?