

**Question for written answer E-013200/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Christine De Veyrac (PPE)**

Subject: Roncal Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)

On 1 March 2013, the Ossau-Iraty PDO syndicate (France – Basque Country and Bearn) lodged a 'motivated statement of objection' at the Paris-based Institut national de l'origine et de la qualité (INAO) to the request to modify the specifications for the Roncal PDO (Spain – Navarre).

The proposed modification entails authorising the use of raw ewe's milk from the Assaf race, which is exogenous to the geographic area of the designation, to produce cheeses labelled Roncal PDO. The current specifications stipulate that only ewe's milk from the Lacha or Rasa races, which are traditional in Navarre, can be used.

To authorise this modification would therefore adversely affect the link between the product and its geographical area of production.

In these circumstances, does the Commission intend to oppose the request to modify the specifications for the Roncal PDO and thus preserve the rationale behind registered destinations of origin?