

Question for written answer E-005569/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Geographical indications for non-agricultural products

Since 1992, it has been possible to protect wines, spirits, agricultural products and foods in the European Union through geographical indications (GI), yet no such protection is available for non-agricultural products.

In 2014, the Commission published a Green Paper on a possible extension of GI protection to non-agricultural products and launched a public consultation. In 2015, Parliament called for a legislative proposal to be tabled on the matter.

No such proposal has been put forward as yet, even though producing the items concerned requires in-depth knowledge and creates jobs.

What is more, this protection could be advantageous in trade negotiations. Some trading partners have already started using this system: the trade agreement between the EU and Colombia and Peru, for example, protects two Peruvian and Colombian non-agricultural GIs.

Can the Commission state why no proposal has yet been forthcoming and when it intends to bring forward a legislative proposal creating a European system for protecting GIs for non-agricultural products?

What line is the Commission taking with international organisations dealing with the matter, especially with the World Trade Organisation in relation to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)?