

**Question for written answer E-003848/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU-China agreement on the protection of PGI and PDO products; better protection of products from southern Italy

The agreement recently signed by the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Phil Hogan, and the Chinese Minister of Commerce, Zhong Shan, provides for reciprocal protection for 100 European Geographical Indications (GIs) in China and an equal number of Chinese GIs in Europe.

The EU-China agreement includes 26 Italian PDO and PGI products, which will be protected.

These products will be fully covered by 'protection' legislation, with a three-year transition period: at the end of the 'phasing out' period, which will be of varying duration depending on the PDO product in question, all products that improperly use a given name (counterfeit and 'Italian sounding' products) will therefore disappear from the Chinese market.

The agreement, which is expected to enter into force by the end of 2020, will now be subject to legal scrutiny, after which Parliament and the European Council will be asked to give their approval.

Within four years of its entry into force, the agreement may be extended to cover an additional 175 GIs on each side.

In view of the above:

- Will the regional origin of the products be taken into consideration during the next negotiations, given that, as regards Italy, only one out of the 26 products included on the list comes from southern Italy?
- What measures will the Commission take to improve the future protection of PDO and PGI products from southern Italy on the global market?