

**Question for written answer E-000384/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elena Lizzi (ID)

Subject: Review of legislation on geographical indications

A geographical indication (GI) is a distinctive sign used to identify products whose geographical origin confers qualities, a reputation or other characteristics upon them. Geographical indications include: PDO – protected designation of origin (food and wine); PGI – protected geographical indication (food and wine); GI – geographical indication (spirits and aromatised wines).

In the Farm to Fork strategy published in May 2020, the Commission stated its intention to review the legislative framework for GI arrangements with a view to enhancing their contribution. A forthcoming Intellectual Property Action Plan is also planned which aims to streamline the system for protecting geographical indications and thus make it more effective.

The European Union currently protects almost 3 400 geographical indications worth EUR 74.8 billion (Italy, with its 876 GIs, has the most of all Member States).

According to recent reports, the Commission intends to transfer powers from DG Agri to the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. Does transferring powers to the EUIPO not run the risk of GIs being transformed into registered trademarks and gradually privatised?
2. How does the Commission intend to protect the nature of GIs to safeguard arrangements ensuring the quality of products and to avoid industrialisation?