

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0487/09
by Czesław Adam Siekierski (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Fasola Korczyńska (Korczyń bean) as a protected geographical indication

Korczyń beans are large white, well-formed and nutritious beans with their own unique natural smell. Another feature that sets them apart is their delicate, mild taste, which contains no hint of bitterness. The area in which they are grown covers five municipalities in the Świętokrzyska region: Nowy Korczyn, Wiślica, Opatowiec, Solec-Zdrój and Pacanów.

An application for *Fasola Korczyńska* to be registered as a protected geographical indication was duly lodged with the Commission on 1 June 2007, more than eighteen months ago. Under Article 6 of Regulation 510/2006¹, the Commission should consider applications within 12 months of their receipt. On 24 June 2008 the Polish Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development received a document from the Commission containing further questions concerning the application. Following a series of laboratory and sensory tests on the product, the ministry forwarded the duly completed documents and its answer to the Commission on 17 December 2008.

Swift registration of *Fasola Korczyńska* as a geographical indication will bring many benefits for producers. It will protect them against unfair competition and foster the development of the region in which the beans are grown. Such registration serves to confirm a product's uniqueness and gives it a higher profile. The scrutiny of applications therefore needs to be conducted in an efficient manner, and consumers need to be better informed about the system. Efforts need to be made to ensure smooth operation of the instruments used to protect EU regional speciality products, namely: (1) protected designations of origin; (2) protected geographical indications; and (3) traditional specialities guaranteed.

The examples of the Korczyń bean and Lisiecka sausage (in connection with which I have also made an approach to the Commission) unfortunately show that it takes the Commission an exceptionally long time to scrutinise applications.

When does the Commission expect to complete its scrutiny of the above applications?

¹ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12.