

**Question for written answer P-002525/2019  
to the Commission  
Rule 138  
Giorgos Georgiou (GUE/NGL)**

**Subject:** Delay in the certification and confirmation of PDO status for haloumi

Haloumi, the most typical product of Cyprus, is of great economic value for the island. Despite this, the certification and confirmation of its protected designation of origin (PDO) status has been pending in the Commission since July 2014.

It is well known that conferral of PDO status on a European product generates new jobs and an increase in agricultural earnings in rural areas. In the case of haloumi, however, the PDO conferral process has become bogged down, which is proving highly detrimental to the product itself (in terms of trademark protection) and those directly involved in the production/distribution/sale/consumption thereof.

All this could be avoided if PDO status were accorded.

As it is, five years have passed since the original application was submitted, with no results to date. In view of this:

1. Does the Commission agree that the delay in conferring PDO status on haloumi is effectively placing the product at greater risk and undermining its commercial prospects?
2. Why has the process not been expedited?
3. When will the haloumi PDO file be submitted for final approval?