

Recent Developments in the Protection of Geographical Indications in the EU

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Registered and protected GIs

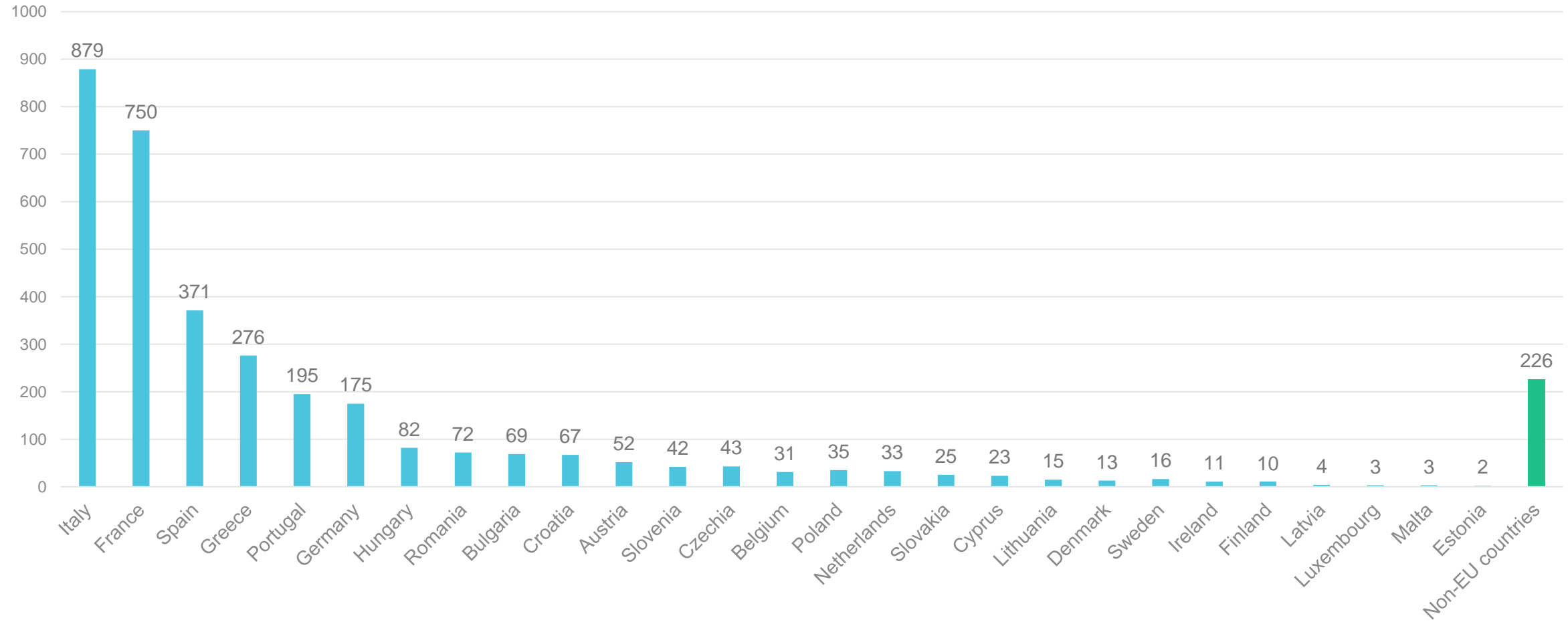
More than 3 500 names in the EU register (June 2023)

- Food: 1630
- Wines: 1632
- Spirits: 260

+ 1 752 non-EU GIs protected under bilateral agreements



GIs registered in the EU (June 2023)



Total: 3 523. In the total number, the multi-country GIs are counted only once.

GIs from the South-East Asia

9 GIs protected through direct registration:

- Thailand – 4
- Indonesia – 2
- Cambodia – 2
- Vietnam – 1

39 GIs from Vietnam protected under the trade agreement





Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**on European Union geographical indications for wine,
spirit drinks and agricultural products,
and quality schemes for agricultural products,
amending Regulations (EU) N°1308/2013, (EU) N° 2017/1001
and (EU) N° 2019/787 and repealing Regulation (EU) N°1151/2012**

adopted on 31st March 2022

Review of GI legislation

- President von der Leyen: *“Look at ways to strengthen the system of geographical indications...”*
- Link to Commission initiatives:
 - **Farm-to-Fork strategy:**
 - to strengthen the legislative framework on GIs
 - **Intellectual Property Action Plan :**
 - to improve the protection system **for agricultural GIs** to make it more effective and to fight IPR infringements

Objectives of the proposal

1. Strengthen protection and **enforcement** of GIs, in particular on the internet
2. Encourage GI producers to incorporate **sustainability** aspects
3. Empower **GI producer groups** for better management of GIs
4. Increase consumer **awareness of GI schemes and logos**
5. **Streamline** and clarify the legal framework
6. Preserve **traditional products** and **production methods**

Provisions of the legislative proposal

Scope of the Regulation

- Extended to all agricultural products according to WTO definition
- Covers wines, spirit drinks and agricultural products listed under the combined nomenclature established by Chapters 1 to 23 of Common Customs Tariff

Harmonization of the rules across the sectors

- Common provisions on the procedures to register a name, amend the product specification and cancel the registration for all sectors

Increased protection of GIs

- Common provisions on the protection for all sectors
- Increased protection as regards to online sales

Provisions of the legislative proposal

Protection of GIs in domain names

- Specific provisions for cc-TLD-registries established in the Union to revoke or transfer a domain name infringing GIs
- Creation of an information and alert system operated by EUIPO

Fostering GI producers' sustainable practices

- Sustainability undertakings in the product specification on a voluntary basis

Recognised producer groups

- To be designated by Member States
- Granted with more powers, notably to liaise with anti-counterfeiting authorities and take enforcement actions

Provisions of the legislative proposal

Controls

- Common provisions on the controls for spirit drinks and agricultural products
- Separate controls provisions for wine in the CMO Regulation
- Certificate of authorisation to produce – to help producers to prove the GI production in the downstream chain

Technical assistance by EUIPO

- Technical assistance with the scrutiny of the applications, their publication and opposition procedures
- The Commission remains responsible for the GI policy and final decision for each GI application

Committee procedure

- A single committee for GIs
- A faster adoption of the Commission Implementing Regulations registering the names or approving the amendments to the product specifications

State of play

- April 2022 – April 2023 – **Negotiations in the Council**
- 8 May 2023 – **Adoption of the Council's General approach**
- 31 May - 1 June 2023 – **Discussion and vote in the European Parliament**
- June 2023 – **Start of Trilogues**
- End of 2023 – **Reaching an inter-institutional agreement and approval of the final text (planned)**
- Application of the Regulation – **One year after its entry into force**

Proposal for a
**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL**

on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products and amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1001 and (EU) 2019/1753 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision (EU) 2019/1754

adopted on 13th April 2022



State of play

- **2 May 2023 – A provisional inter-institutional agreement was reached**
- The provisional **agreement needs to be approved by the European Parliament** (expected vote in July 2023) and then **formally adopted by the Council**
- Application of the Regulation – **25 months after its entry into force**

Thank you



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