

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON QUALITY 16 OCTOBER 2012

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY SCHEMES

MS up to Friday last week to respond to the text -> when completed the report will be submitted to the SCAR and to the Council. Need for formal adoption. Maybe it will not be presented as an A point, since one delegation has announced that it will vote against. -> no date available for publication -> entry into force (around Christmas?).

Implementing and delegated acts:

- The basic regulation has to entry into force first.
 - Ongoing compilation of the points that are in the regulation now to check which of the contents in those implementing acts should be dealt with in either way under the new regulation. Proposals will be submitted after entry into force.
 - Mountain products only delegated act the EC is working on.
 - derogations -> replies have shown that they would be necessary in some cases, but only if natural constraints.
 - conditions of production -> replies have shown that it is not necessary to prove natural constraints, just defined geographically.
- Study by the JRC -> expected by end 2012. Inputs can still be given to the EC.
- Recital 44a. reference to misleading practices -> how to avoid them?
 - EC guidelines in relation with foodstuff labelling. The EC may adopt guidelines -> no obligation. Not known whether guidelines would actually be needed
 - Logo?
 - No legal base for a logo.
 - Possibility for derogations -> EC can issue derogation, but it is not compulsory. -> term immediately protected, cannot be used in a different way.
 - At least 6 months after the entry into force for delegated acts to come into force.
 - Not aware of any work on other voluntary terms.
 - Possibility to use the name of the mountains? (ex. Alps) Indication of origin is not mandatory.
 - Courts will have to decide
 - No transition period (vs GI logos, art. 59, entry into force in 3 years after entry into force of the regulation.
 - Request to regulate integrated production at the EU level?
 - H2 not working on this. Pb confusion with organic
 - TSG such as mozzarella, which didn't have a reserved name:
 - It is necessary to see what happens

FOLLOW UP OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE WG "PRODUCT FROM MY FARM"

Last meeting on the 5th July -> discussion of possible measures

No new meeting planned. When writing the report possibility to convene another meeting if necessary.

Study commissioned -> expected for the end of the year.

Yet to decide whether a legislative proposal will be made.

INFORMATION ON THE RECENT CALL FOR TENDER CONCERNING A STUDY ASSESSING THE ADDED VALUE OF PDO/PGI PRODUCTS (21-07-2012) (POSS.)

Offers have been evaluated. Contract by the end of the year + 10 months duration of the study.

INFORMATION ON THE ISSUE OF ORIGIN LABELLING

- information on the preparation of implementing rules of Regulation 1169/2011 and articulation with the concept of "place of farming" as defined in the proposal for a Regulation amending the existing "CMO regulation"

Study started in September will last 9 months;
Stakeholder workshop in Borshette next Friday.

IA next year -> implementing acts

- update on the WTO dispute with the United States on country of origin labelling (COOL) and its possible consequences on EU legislation (i.e: Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers)