AREPO
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Second annual plenary meeting of AREPO in 2026

15 - 16 October 2026

Sala degli Arcieri, Palazzo Ducale,

Piazza Sordello, 40, 46100 Mantua MN, Italy

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026 | Arrival of participants

- Individual arrival of participants in Mantua. Please refer to **the Infopack attached to this document for practical information on how to get to Mantua.**
- Dinner at leisure.

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026 | AREPO General Assembly

The AREPO General Assembly will take place on **15 October 2026 from 09:00 to 17:00 (CET)** – **Sala degli Arcieri, Palazzo Ducale** , Piazza Sordello, 40, 46100 Mantua MN, Italy

Interpretation will be provided in **DE, EL, EN, ES, FR, IT.**

Find the agenda below. Items to be put to a vote are specifically indicated:

Welcome coffee | 09:00 – 09:30

Statutory part | 09:30 – 10:30

- Presentation of the agenda for the GA, **Laurent GOMEZ**, AREPO Secretary-General
- Welcome by AREPO President, **Alessandro BEDUSCHI**, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry of the Lombardia Region
- Report by the Presidency on activities carried out in the first half of 2026, **Alessandro BEDUSCHI**, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry of the Lombardia Region
- Intervention by AREPO Vice-presidency, **César Saldaña**, President of CADO
- Presentation on the state of the provisional accounts for 2026, **Temanuata GIRARD**, AREPO Treasurer and Vicepresident for Agriculture and Food of Centre-Val de Loire Region, and **Laurent GOMEZ**, AREPO Secretary-General
- Vote on the membership fee for 2027

  The General Assembly will be asked to vote on maintaining the membership fee at €6.000

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Coffee break | 10.30 – 11.00

Thematic Part I | The Future of Geographical Indications in the EU and the forthcoming European Action Plan on GIs | 11:00–13:00

Speakers:

- **Alessandro Beduschi**, President of AREPO and Regional Minister for Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, Lombardy Region
- **Francesco Lollobrigida**, Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry
- **Diego Canga Fano,** Deputy Director-General, DG AGRI, European Commission
- **Paolo De Castro,** President of Nomisma
- **Riccardo Deserti,** President of oriGIn and Director of the Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese Consortium
- **Carlo Fidanza**, Member of the European Parliament

Session moderated by: **Laurent Gomez,** AREPO Secretary-General

Conclusion | The session will conclude with the signing of the *"Mantua Declaration"* by AREPO President Alessandro Beduschi and its official presentation to the participating institutional representatives.

Lunch break | 13:00 – 15:00

Guided tours | 14:00 – 14:30 and 14:30 – 15:00

Guided tour of **the Chamber of the Bride and Groom** in the Ducal Palace, frescoed by Andrea Mantegna.

To ensure the best possible experience, participants will be divided into **two groups**, with the first session running from **2.00 pm to 2.30 pm** and the second from **2.30 pm to 3.00 pm**. Each group will consist of **approximately 30–35 people**.

GI SMART |1st dissemination webinar for regional actors | 15:00 – 17:00

Hybrid format – Click here to read the detailed agenda

Thematic Session II | Analysis of the implementation of certified quality agricultural production systems in the Lombardy Region | 17:00 – 17:10

- Presentation by **Prof. Gabriele CANALI,** Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Director of CREFIS – Research Centre for Sustainable Supply Chains and President of Vsafe

Conclusion | 17:10

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PRESENTATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS EXPO EVENT | 18:30–19:30

A shuttle service will be provided to take participants to **Palazzo Te**. To use the service, the **meeting point will be at 18:00 in Piazza Sordello (Palazzo Ducale side).**

18:15 – 18:30 | Registration at Palazzo Te

18:30 – 19:30 | Presentation of the Geographical Indications EXPO event, scheduled to take place in Desenzano in spring 2027, in the *Sala Cavalli* and the *Sala Amore e Psiche*, the latter reserved for participants requiring interpretation services.

19:30 – 20:00 | Aperitif and entertainment

Following the presentation, guests will be invited to enjoy an aperitif in the *Esedra* of Palazzo Te and attend a series of performances along the route leading to the *Fruttiere*.

Dinner | 20:00

Formal dinner hosted by the Lombardy Region at the **Fruttiere of Palazzo Te**, Viale Te, 13, 46100 Mantua MN, Italy

At the end of the dinner, the same shuttle service as for the outward journey will take participants **from Palazzo Te back to Piazza Sordello.**

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FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026 | Technical visits

The technical visits will take place on the morning of Friday, 16 October.

The programme will begin with a short boat trip, followed by a bus transfer to the technical visit locations.

09:15 | Meeting point at **Pier B1, Viale Mincio – Navi Andes**

09:30 | Departure by boat

11:00 | Arrival in Pietole and departure by bus to **Caseificio Europeo** (Via Bruno Buozzi 4, 46031 Bagnolo San Vito MN, Italy), where participants will have the opportunity to observe the production of Grana Padano PDO.

A light lunch will be served at Caseificio Europeo at the end of the visit.

After the visit, the same bus will take participants from Caseificio Europeo back to **Piazza Sordello, Mantua**.

14:30–15:00 | Return to Mantua.

Alessandro BEDUSCHI
Chairman of AREPO

P/O

Laurent GOMEZ, SG