



Plenary sitting

A9-0199/2020

28.10.2020

RECOMMENDATION

on the proposal for a draft Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications (8359/2020 – C9-0298/2020 – 2020/0089(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Iuliu Winkler

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a draft Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications (8359/2020 – C9-0298/2020 – 2020/0089(NLE))

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (8359/2020),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications (8361/2020),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 207(4), first subparagraph and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), and Article 218(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0298/2020),
 - having regard to its non-legislative resolution of ...¹ on the draft decision,
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Fisheries,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade (A9-0199/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the People's Republic of China.

¹ Texts adopted of that date, [P9_TA(0000)0000].

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

On 10 September 2010 the Council authorized the opening of negotiations with China with a view to an agreement on the protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) for wines, spirits, agricultural products and foodstuffs. This negotiation built upon the experience of the 10 + 10 GIs cooperation project between the EU and China that in 2013 resulted in the protection of 10 GIs on both sides under EU and Chinese legislation. The negotiations on a GI agreement were concluded on 6 November 2019.

The agreement allows the protection of famous and valuable EU GIs in the Chinese market against imitation and usurpation. Under the deal, in a first phase, direct protection through the agreement of a list of 100 EU GIs and 100 Chinese GIs will be ensured as from the entry into force of the agreement. In a second phase, within four years, an additional 175 GI names both from the EU and China will be protected under the Agreement. These names will have to follow the same registration procedure as the 100 names already covered by the agreement. The agreement foresees the possibility to extend the scope after its entry into force to other product classes currently not covered under EU legislation, and in particular handicrafts.

The listed GIs will benefit from a very high level of protection going beyond the one offered under TRIPS, both for foodstuffs but also for wines and spirits. They will be protected against:

- the use of any means in the designation or presentation of a good that indicates or suggests that the good in question originates in a geographical area other than the true place of origin in a manner which misleads the public as to the geographical origin of the good;
- any use of a geographical indication identifying an identical or similar product not originating in the place indicated by the geographical indication in question, even where the true origin of the goods is indicated or the geographical indication is used in translation, transcription or transliteration, or accompanied by expressions such as "kind", "type", "style", "imitation" or the like;
- any use of a geographical indication identifying an identical or similar product not compliant with the product specification of the protected name.

In accordance with Article 218(6) TFEU, the consent of the European Parliament is needed in order for the Council to adopt a decision concluding the Agreement.

In the light of the above, the Rapporteur recommends that the Parliament give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

13.10.2020

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of geographical indications
(COM(2020)0213 – C9-xxxx – 2020/0089(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Nuno Melo

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The conclusion of the EU-China agreement on geographical indications is the first significant bilateral trade agreement between the EU and China.

China is a market with high growth potential for European drinks and food. However, it is no secret that European companies are often in competition with Chinese companies that use child labour, do not bear social or environmental costs, still use raw materials that are banned in the EU and, in some cases, engage in dumping and unfair competition. The goal of this agreement is to bring about a higher level of protection against the counterfeiting and usurpation of EU products of high economic value, thereby ensuring that intellectual and industrial property rights are respected.

As a first stage, the agreement aims to achieve the highest level of protection for the geographical indications of 100 EU agri-food products. The agreement will ensure that excellent quality and highly popular EU products such as: Champagne; Porto; Feta; Irish Whiskey; Mozzarella di Bufala; Polska Wódka; Prosciutto di Parma and Queso Manchego, to name but a few, enjoy protection on the Chinese market.

Secondly, over the course of four years from its entry into force, a further 175 geographical indications of each party will be included under the agreement.

Geographical indications have also proven to be a useful marketing tool, which helps to ensure higher and more stable export prices for producers. According to studies published by the Commission in 2013 and 2020 respectively, a product with a geographical indication sells, on average, for more than twice the price of a similar product without one.

The agreement will be beneficial to European producers and is expected to act as a stimulus for the rural areas from which these products originate.

The fisheries and aquaculture component of the agreement is small. However, it is an agreement that should be strongly supported as it could act as a basis for the inclusion and recognition in the future of EU fisheries and aquaculture products.

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to recommend the approval of the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of geographical indications.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications	
References	08359/2020 – C9-0298/2020 – 2020/0089(NLE)	
Committee responsible	INTA	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	PECH 17.9.2020	
Rapporteur Date appointed	Nuno Melo 10.7.2020	
Discussed in committee	3.9.2020	28.9.2020
Date adopted	12.10.2020	
Result of final vote	+: 20	–: 2
	0: 4	
Members present for the final vote	Clara Aguilera, François-Xavier Bellamy, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Isabel Carvalhais, Rosanna Conte, Rosa D'Amato, Fredrick Federley, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Søren Gade, Francisco Guerreiro, Anja Hazekamp, Niclas Herbst, Pierre Karleskind, Predrag Fred Matić, Francisco José Millán Mon, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Grace O'Sullivan, Caroline Roose, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen, Theodoros Zagorakis	
Substitutes present for the final vote	Nicolás González Casares, Valentino Grant, Ivo Hristov, Petros Kokkalis	

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

20	+
ECR	Ruža TOMAŠIĆ
GUE/NGL	Petros KOKKALIS
ID	Rosanna CONTE, Valentino GRANT,
PPE	Niclas HERBST, Francisco José MILLÁN MON, Cláudia MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR, Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK, Peter VAN DALEN, Theodoros ZAGORAKIS
RENEW	Izaskun BILBAO, Fredrick FEDERLEY, Søren GADE, Pierre KARLESKIND
S&D	Clara AGUILERA, Isabel CARVALHAIS, Giuseppe FERRANDINO, Nicolás GONZALEZ CASARES, Ivo HRISTOV, Predrag Fred MATIĆ

2	-
GUE/NGL	Anja HAZEKAMP
PPE	François-Xavier BELLAMY

4	0
NI	Rosa D'AMATO
VERTS/ALE	Francisco GUERREIRO, Grace O'SULLIVAN, Caroline ROOSE

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications	
References	08359/2020 – C9-0298/2020 – 2020/0089(NLE)	
Date of consultation / request for consent	16.9.2020	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	INTA 17.9.2020	
Committees asked for opinions Date announced in plenary	AGRI 17.9.2020	PECH 17.9.2020
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	AGRI 2.9.2020	
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Iuliu Winkler 11.6.2020	
Discussed in committee	3.9.2020	
Date adopted	27.10.2020	
Result of final vote	+	38
	-	1
	0	3
Members present for the final vote	Barry Andrews, Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Tiziana Beghin, Geert Bourgeois, Saskia Bricmont, Udo Bullmann, Jordi Cañas, Daniel Caspary, Miroslav Číž, Arnaud Danjean, Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann, Markéta Gregorová, Enikő Györi, Roman Haider, Christophe Hansen, Heidi Hautala, Danuta Maria Hübner, Herve Juvin, Maximilian Krah, Danilo Oscar Lancini, Bernd Lange, Margarida Marques, Gabriel Mato, Sara Matthieu, Emmanuel Maurel, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Samira Rafaela, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Massimiliano Salini, Helmut Scholz, Liesje Schreinemacher, Sven Simon, Dominik Tarczyński, Mihai Tudose, Kathleen Van Brempt, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler, Jan Zahradil	
Substitutes present for the final vote	Svenja Hahn, Jean-Lin Lacapelle	
Date tabled	29.10.2020	

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

38	+
ECR	Geert Bourgeois, Dominik Tarczynski, Jan Zahradil
GUE/NGL	Emmanuel Maurel, Helmut Scholz
ID	Roman Haider, Herve Juvin, Maximilian Krah, Danilo Oscar Lancini, Jean-Lin Lacapelle
NI	Tiziana Beghin
PPE	Anna Michelle Asimakopoulou, Daniel Caspary, Arnaud Danjean, Enikő Győri, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Gabriel Mato, Massimiliano Salini, Sven Simon, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler
RENEW	Barry Andrews, Jordi Cañas, Svenja Hahn, Samira Rafaela, Liesje Schreinemacher, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne
S&D	Udo Bullmann, Miroslav Číž, Paolo De Castro, Bernd Lange, Margarida Marques, Inma Rodríguez Piñero, Mihai Tudose, Kathleen Van Brempt
VERTS/ALE	Markéta Gregorova, Heidi Hautala

1	-
NI	Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó

3	0
S&D	Raphaël Glucksmann
VERTS/ALE	Saskia Bricmont, Sara Matthieu

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention