



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications
The Director

Brussels
AGRI.F.3/ [REDACTED]

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your enquiries of 19 ⁽¹⁾ and 26 February 2024 ⁽²⁾ concerning future requests for registrations.

You ask whether one name for a geographical indication, specifically ‘Lambiek’, can cover three different products, namely Vosse Lambiek (young, unclouded lambic with still-active fermentation), Jonge Lambiek (clarified or unclouded lambic, aged over 8 months), and Oude Lambiek (clarified lambic, aged over 18 months). You note that qualifying words such as ‘Vosse’, ‘Jonge’ and ‘Oude’ would still appear next to the protected name ‘Lambiek’ on the label. In addition, you explain that ‘Lambiek’ is the principal component of ‘Oude Geuze’ and ‘Oude Kriek’, which you would like to register as PGI. ‘Lambiek’ is mentioned in the product specification of ‘Oude Geuze’ and ‘Oude Kriek’, as one cannot produce those beers without first producing ‘Lambiek’.

One name for a geographical indication can indeed cover distinct products. Should you submit a request for the registration of the name ‘Lambiek’ as a geographical indication, the term ‘Lambiek’ would be the only registered and protected name. However, that name may be then accompanied on the label by an adjective that identifies distinct products resulting from variations in the method of production of the product (resulting in three distinct products). Of course, the link must be demonstrated with reference to the three distinct products. Therefore, the product specification must describe the method of production for the three variations of the beer product. Both the product specification and the single document must include the description of the three distinct products and the specific labelling rules regarding the three adjectives must appear in the labelling section. For example, the wording in the latter section could be: ‘the name of the product may be accompanied by one of the following terms depending on the length of the ageing (in details: “Vosse” for X years ageing “Jonge” for X years ageing or “Oude” for X years ageing’).

⁽¹⁾ Ares (2024)1562618

⁽²⁾ Ares (2024)1562848

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As regards ‘Oude Gueuze’ and ‘Oude Kriek’, they are already registered as Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG). Therefore, the Belgian authorities would first need to request a cancellation of the ‘Oude Gueuze’ and ‘Oude Kriek’ TSGs before starting the procedures for registration of ‘Oude Gueuze’ and ‘Oude Kriek’ as PGI. In an application for registration of a PGI, there is no prohibition to list another PGI (in this case ‘Lambiek’) as a required ingredient.

Finally, you ask for examples of names for which registrations have been applied by one single producer.

We recall that, in the context of applications for registration of names under the quality schemes, “a single natural or legal person may be treated as a group where it is shown that both of the following conditions are fulfilled: (a) the person concerned is the only producer willing to submit an application; (b) with regard to protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications, the defined geographical area possesses characteristics which differ appreciably from those of neighbouring areas, or the characteristics of the product are different from those produced in neighbouring areas.”⁽³⁾ In the wine sector, ‘El Vicario’ or ‘La Jaraba’ are examples of registration of names applied by a single producer.

The present opinion is provided based on the facts as set out in your emails and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving European Union law, it is for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable European Union law.

Yours faithfully,



Diego CANGA FANO

⁽³⁾ Article 49, paragraph 1, of Regulation (EU) N°1151/2012