



BERGAMO DECLARATION



On the protection and development of the World's Geographical Indications for Food, Wine & Spirits



As representatives of agri-food products, wine and spirit drinks protected by Geographical Indications:

- We maintain that agri-food products, wine and spirit drinks protected by Geographical Indications are an invaluable economic and cultural heritage for the production areas, as well as bearers of important human values to be passed down to future generations. We believe that the protection of Geographical Indications is a fundamental tool for safeguarding the quality, uniqueness and specificity of agricultural products that are linked to a territory, as well as for preserving traditional production methods and promoting rural development.
- We reiterate the global economic, social and cultural importance of products protected by a Geographical Indication, a virtuous model in terms of territorial development and sustainability, putting a stop to rural exodus, maximizing the value of the supply chains and reducing market volatility. Furthermore, Geographical Indications contribute to international trade, correct consumer information and wider consumer choice, as well as to sectors that are important for many geographic areas, such as tourism, food and wine.
- We stress that Geographical Indications, by nature, promote the preservation of local resources and the territory (key factors that determine the uniqueness of the products and make it impossible to delocalize them), as well as the traditional knowledge of local communities, also thanks to them being subject to strict control systems. The Geographical Indication system is an interesting model that can be adopted in other socioeconomic contexts, in order to face global challenges posed by the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability.
- We are concerned about the increased imitation and abuse of Geographical Indications in international commerce and in particular on the web, detrimental to both consumers and legitimate producers, and the parallel proliferation of international protection laws and regulations, which are often not easy to understand or apply. This abuse undermines and endangers the overall economic sustainability of the Geographical Indications sector, the products' areas of origin and local communities.



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In light of these considerations, we ask that the public authorities of the G7 Member countries and the international community pay greater attention to the following issues:

1. The creation of a multilateral system for the protection of Geographical Indications, which is efficient, simple and transparent for producers and consumers. We therefore ask policy-makers to consider the implementation of the 1958 Lisbon Agreement - revised with the Geneva Act in 2015 – as a way to ensure multilevel protection for Geographical Indications.
2. Substantial improvement in the transparency of Internet governance by involving stakeholders, in order to ensure the effective protection of Geographical Indications as an Intellectual Property Right; in particular, in ICANN's management of the system for assigned Top-Level Domain and second-level domain names; in the correct use of the names of Geographical Indications in e-commerce platforms and search engines.
3. In-depth research, studies and activities to raise awareness on the Geographical Indications model's contribution to economic, social and environmental sustainability, including efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. An increase in financial resources for international co-operation aimed at strengthening Geographical Indications through effective governance models and systems, in particular in developing countries and conflict-affected areas, with the direct involvement of producer organizations, including the exchange of best practices.

The representatives of Geographical Indications gathered in Bergamo on October 11th, 2017.



Conference attended by

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Signed by



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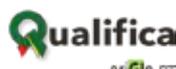
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