

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE  
106<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SPIRIT DRINKS  
ON 8/11/2011**

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**President:** H. VERSTEIJLEN

**Delegations:** All delegations were present, except Malta

**1) Adoption of the agenda.**

The agenda was adopted by all Member States delegates (MS).

**2) New geographical indications: state of play.**

The Commission representative (COM) informed MS that the objection procedure for the geographical indication (GI) "Pisco", for Peru, would be closed on 12 November 2011 and that no objections had been introduced so far. COM also informed that the application for the GI "Russian Vodka" was going to be presented to COM shortly.

**3) Exchange of views on a working document concerning a draft Commission Regulation establishing detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008.**

COM presented the new draft of the working document on implementing rules pointing out that several comments were received by MS and that many of them had been taken into account.

The modified text did not raise major concerns among MS. There were still some disagreements on the need to indicate the sales denomination "liqueur" if this term appears already in the compound term and on whether the field of vision of the sales denomination should be the same as that of the compound term. Some minor modifications were suggested by MS to improve the text.

Several MS expressed concerns on the procedures for the registration of GIs. In particular, they considered that the Commission services should not analyse the technical files concerning established GIs, the submission of which is foreseen before February 2015. Moreover, some MS considered that there was no need, for established GIs, to submit a summary of the technical file as foreseen in the draft implementing rules.

COM encouraged MS to send their suggestions to improve the text on compound terms and GIs. Moreover, COM underlined the need to verify the compliance of all technical files with Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, adding that COM must ensure the coherence of the technical files with the GI system of the EU, mainly in view of the critical attitude shown by some third countries on such system, in the framework of bilateral agreements.

**4) Exchange of views on a working document concerning a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008.**

COM informed that the modifications of Annex II included the possibility to use the term "dry" to describe *gin* and *distilled gin* and the inclusion of the new category "absinth". On the second point, there was disagreement among MS concerned by the production of absinth, mainly as regards the content in thuyone and anethole. COM asked to suggest modifications, before the next Committee, agreed by all producing MS.

COM presented also the modifications of Annex III, concerning the inclusion of the new GI "Újfehértói Meggypálinka" (Hungary), the possibility to use the GI "Polish vodka" for *flavoured vodka* and the possibility to use the GI "Blutwurz", now reserved to liqueurs with that GI, also for *other spirit drinks*.

**5) Restrictive measures concerning the packaging of a spirit drink in the area of its geographical indication.**

COM informed MS that, as already stated in previous Committees, any restriction related to the place of bottling must be avoided, unless duly justified and substantiated. COM added that, when analysing technical files of new and established GIs, a particular attention will be drawn to this element.

**6) Any other business.**

FI asked information about the system for measuring the tolerance for the minimum alcohol content. COM requested a detailed written request in order to prepare an answer for the next Committee.

SE announced its intention to submit the request for a new spirit drink category.

IT pointed out that, according to the press, a price was given in AT for an Argentinean Grappa, although the term "Grappa" is a protected GI in EU. AT assured that this will be verified.

FR presented 5 technical files corresponding to 5 established French GIs.

DE expressed its doubts about the correct sales denomination for a spirit drink made with ethyl alcohol and orange lemonade. DE also asked COM if it was possible to add "citrus fruits" to the list of fruits allowed for the production of spirits referred to in Annex II, point 16 of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008. COM requested, for the two issues, an official written request from DE.

(signed)  
**H. VERSTEIJLEN**  
Director

### Attendance list – Summary record

106th Committee for Spirit Drinks

Date: 08/11/2011

Member State	Ministry or Organization	Number of persons
BE	Ministère Région Wallonne	1
	Vlaams Min. van Middenstand en Landbouw	1
	Ministère des Affaires Économiques	0
	Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Santé Pub. et Env.	0
BG	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	0
	Ministry of Economy and Energy	1
	Executive Agency on Vine and Wine	0
	Permanent Representation	0
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	SZIF (State Agriculture Intervention Fund)	0
	SZPI (Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority)	1
	Permanent Representation	0
DK	Fødevarestyrelsen	1
	Directoratet for Fodevareerhverv	0
DE	Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (BMELV)	1
	BI für Risikobewertung	0
	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE)	0
	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Landwirtschaft und Weinbau	0
EE	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Veterinary and Food Board	0
	Permanent representation	0
IE	Department of Agriculture	1
	State Laboratory	0
EL	Permanent Representation	1
ES	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino	2
	Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda	0
	Ministerio de Industria, Turismo y Comercio	0
	Gobierno de la Rioja	0
FR	Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche	1
	Ministère de l'Économie, DG Concurrence, Consommation et Répression des fraudes	2
	Ministère du Budget	0
	FranceAgriMer	0
	INAO	1
	FIRS	0
IT	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali	2
	AGEA (ex AIMA)	0
	Ministère du Commerce Extérieur	0
	Agenzie delle Dogane	0
	Permanent Representation	0
CY	Permanent Representation	1
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1

LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Ministère de la Santé	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
MT	---	---
NL	Min. of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1
	Commissie Gedistilleerd	0
AT	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	1
	Codexkommission	1
	AGES (Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit)	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Ministry of Finance	0
	Représentation permanente	0
PT	IVV-Instituto da Vinha e do Vinho	1
	Gabinete de Planeamento e Políticas	0
	IFAP (Payment agency)	0
	Représentation permanente	0
RO	Ministry of Agriculture	0
	Représentation permanente	1
SI	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	1
SK	Central Agricultural Control and Testing Institute (UKSUP)	0
	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Représentation permanente	0
FI	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health	0
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	0
	Ministry of Agriculture	0
	National Alcohol Board	0
	National Food Administration	1
UK	DEFRA	1
	Représentation permanente	0