

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission and

of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

on the negotiation of the Agreement on Cooperation on, and Protection of, Geographical Indications

The Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred as both sides) ,

Expressing satisfaction about their productive cooperation;

Having a common interest to deepen trade relations between the EU and China;

Recognising especially a shared strong interest in protection of geographical indications (GIs) which represent important traditions and rich resources for both sides;

Welcoming the fruitful discussions and the progress of the latest negotiation rounds; and

Taking note that the leaders at the 19th EU - China Summit called for a conclusion of the negotiation of the Agreement on the Cooperation on, and Protection of, Geographical Indications within 2017 and instructed the negotiators to accelerate the work and resolve outstanding issues:

Have decided to publish each other's list of selected GI names for opposition in a mutually agreed way in accordance with their respective domestic legislations on 3rd of June 2017 as a key step to reach a rapid conclusion of the ongoing negotiations.

Both sides acknowledge that the agreement should result in reciprocal trade benefits. They commit to accelerate their work to reach an agreement that will provide for effective protection for each party's list of GIs.

Both sides reaffirm that enhanced mutual GI protection under the future agreement will positively influence rural development by fostering local values, culture and tradition; and help preserve the traditional heritage of both sides. Furthermore the agreement will help to maximize the added value of GI products in both markets and increase consumers' awareness and demand for high-quality products.