



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 12 SEP. 2011
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Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Senate of Romania for its opinion regarding the Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on agricultural product quality schemes {COM (2010) 733 final}.

The Commission takes due note of the Senate's conclusion that increasing the time period required for Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG) would not be in line with the principle of proportionality.

In this context, the Commission would like to note that the proposal is accompanied by an impact assessment {SEC(2010)1525(1)} which covers inter alia the compliance of the measures proposed with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The impact assessment report concludes that for the TSG scheme to become attractive to users, it should be made more understandable and relevant. For this reason, the European Commission has proposed to change the criteria for "traditional" specialities. Research projects and studies referenced in the impact assessment report demonstrate that a period of 25 years as currently required is too short in view of the general public's understanding of what is meant by "traditional". The Commission takes note of the comment of the Senate regarding differences in national registers. It assures the Senate that this proposal does not in fact change the situation compared to the existing scheme.

The Commission hopes that these additional clarifications are helpful and looks forward to further developing the political dialogue with the Romanian Senate.

Yours faithfully,

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Vice-President*

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