

**Joint Press Statement by Commissioner Phil Hogan and Minister Zhong Shan on the
End of the Negotiations of an Agreement between the European Union and the
Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation on, and Protection of,
Geographical Indications**

We, Commissioner Hogan and Minister Zhong Shan, meeting in Beijing on the 6th of November 2019, are honoured to announce the end of the negotiations of an agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications, after eight years of negotiation.

This future agreement is likely to be one the most significant trade agreement negotiated between the European Union and the People's Republic of China in recent years. It should provide high protection for European names on the Chinese market and for Chinese names on the European market. It should be another step in the global recognition of geographical indications, allowing us to preserve the traditional way of producing these high quality products, conserving our food heritage, and contributing to rural economies, to European and Chinese consumers as well as society at large.

The conclusion of these negotiations was a commitment taken at the last EU-China Summit and is a powerful and concrete step for an increased cooperation between the European Union and China. The future agreement should be a sign to the world of our commitment to deeper trade relations. It should be a symbol of our openness and our adherence to international rules as a basis for trade relations.

The text of the agreement will now follow the relevant procedures from both parties to allow the respective Chinese and European Institutions to conclude the agreement as soon as possible so that Chinese and European producers and consumers can start enjoying its benefits.

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