

Ms. Cecilia Malmström
Commissioner for Trade
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
BERL 08/114

Dear Commissioner Malmström,

You have certainly been informed of the outcomes of the US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade held in Chicago in December 2014.

With regard to Geographical indications, China and US assented to pave the way for safeguarding generic terms within their territories in order to be able in the future to prevent the registration and subsequent protection of Geographical indications.

We are writing to you in order to express our deepest concern in this regard, bearing in mind that the Commission is currently negotiating a specific Agreement on GIs with China and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (that is expected to provide for the protection of the EU GIs) with the US.

Besides those commitments, China and the US have committed to holding a bilateral dialogue on geographical indications on a regular basis, thus potentially hindering the negotiations carried out by the Commission with both countries and putting in danger the goods results achieved in protecting GIs thanks to the FTAs concluded by the EU with several important partner countries.

Indeed, the US anti-GIs stance is by now going beyond the scope of the stand-alone agreement between EU and China and seriously jeopardizes all our efforts in this field the world over.

It would appear therefore necessary to start a dialogue with the US on this matter, implementing a sort of truce that may safeguard our current and future negotiations.

The issue could eventually be a possible item to be discussed in one of the next Trade Ministers' Council meetings.

Meanwhile, we call on the Commission to take a clear and firm position with regard to the US and we are confident that the Commission will do its best to find a positive solution to this important issue.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration,

Mr Carlo CALENDÀ
Deputy Minister of Economic Development of
the Italian Republic



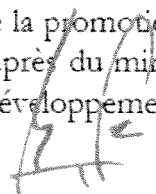
Mr Jaime GARCÍA-LEGAZ PONCE
Secretary of State for Trade
Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness
of Kingdom of Spain



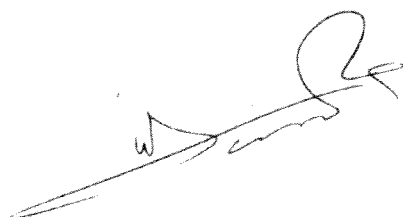
Mr Bojidar LOUKARSKY
Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria



Mr Matthias FEKL
Secrétaire d'Etat chargé du Commerce extérieur,
de la promotion du Tourisme et des Français à l'étranger,
auprès du ministre des Affaires étrangères et du
Développement international de la République française



Mr Patroklos GEORGIADES
Secretary General for Development and Competitiveness
Ministry for Development and Competitiveness of
the Hellenic Republic



Mr Bruno MAÇÃES
Secretary of State for European Affairs
of the Portuguese Republic

