



Bologna, 6th March 2013

Dear MEP Capoulas-Santos,

in my capacity as President of the Association of European Regions for Products of Origin (AREPO), and in view of the imminent vote of the European Parliament on the Common Agricultural Policy, I am writing to you, in your capacity as coordinator of the S&D group to ask for your support to quality products within the future regulations.

We wish to congratulate the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament for the work carried out until now. It is in fact thanks to this Committee that quality products, the importance of which had not been fully acknowledged by the European Commission, can count on key instruments for their valorisation. We would like to stress the relevance of, in particular, the art. 17 of the Regulation on Rural Development, as amended, and the possibility for producers groups to manage production volumes of PDO and PGI products in order to avoid market crisis and preserve quality, within the Single CMO Regulation.

Such amendment proposals aim to acknowledge the socio-economic value of geographical indications as well as their strong connection to the territory where they are produced and where they are a key source of employment and revenues, as well as an element that helps rooting population in rural areas that would otherwise be abandoned. It is equally important to keep in mind their contribution to the preservation of biodiversity, local cultural identities and the variety of European landscapes.

We hope that you will support the results reached by the ComAgri. They are extremely relevant to our Association, which is active since 2004 and represents both regions and producers from several European countries, as well as more than 40% in the geographical indications of the continent, including some of the most well known in Europe.

I remain at your disposal should you require any further information.

Best regards,

Tiberio Rabboni
President of AREPO