



Bologna, 10th June 2013

Dear Mr Capoulas Santos,

I am writing in my capacity as President of the European Association for Products of Origin (AREPO), to draw your attention to the recognition of the key role of quality products in the future Common Agricultural Policy.

We appreciated your work as a rapporteur for the Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and we would like to congratulate you for it.

We are nevertheless worried that in the on-going trilogues some of the amendments that are key to our sector may be overlooked or discarded, as negotiations lag and focus on some of the most central or controversial elements of the regulation.

In this respect, I would notably like to remind you the meaning for our sector of article 17, as amended by the European Parliament. We sincerely hope that the contents of this measure, which will have a huge impact on our territories, on their level of employment in rural areas and on the preservation of our traditions and biodiversity, will be preserved.

Another element that would be particularly important for us concerns the possibility to maintain the flexibility granted to Member States with regards to the identification of specific needs for the creation of thematic sub-programmes (article 8). This would allow interested member states to foster the valorisation of quality products as an effective tool for rural development.

I hope that you will manage to bring forward a vision of European rural development based on quality and with a solid basis and impact on economic, social and cultural issues.

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

Best regards,

Tiberio Rabboni,
President of AREPO