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<sup>(1)</sup> Text with EEA relevance.

Π

(Information)

## INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION

#### Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case M.8549 — Groupe Lactalis/Omira)

(Text with EEA relevance)

#### (2018/C 62/01)

On 31 August 2017, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (<sup>1</sup>). The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en) under document number 32017M8549. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

<sup>(&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

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IV

(Notices)

# NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## Euro exchange rates (1) 16 February 2018

(2018/C 62/02)

#### 1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,2464	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5587
JPY	Japanese yen	132,34	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,7479
DKK	Danish krone	7,4481	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,6853
GBP	Pound sterling	0,88803	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,6336
SEK	Swedish krona	9,9140	KRW	South Korean won	1 327,26
CHF	Swiss franc	1,1521	ZAR	South African rand	14,5331
ISK	Iceland króna	125,20	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	7,9077
NOK	Norwegian krone	9,6810	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,4380
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	16 848,21
	8		MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,8541
CZK	Czech koruna	25,340	PHP	Philippine peso	65,121
HUF	Hungarian forint	311,28	RUB	Russian rouble	70,2884
PLN	Polish zloty	4,1597	THB	Thai baht	39,000
RON	Romanian leu	4,6625	BRL	Brazilian real	4,0314
TRY	Turkish lira	4,6784	MXN	Mexican peso	23,0626
AUD	Australian dollar	1,5695	INR	Indian rupee	80,0440

<sup>(1)</sup> *Source*: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

#### NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

#### Update of model cards issued by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States to accredited members of diplomatic missions and consular representations and members of their families, as referred to in Article 20(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) (<sup>1</sup>)

(2018/C 62/03)

The publication of model cards issued by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States to accredited members of diplomatic missions and consular representations and members of their families, as referred to in Article 20(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) (<sup>2</sup>) is based on the information communicated by the Member States to the Commission in conformity with Article 39 of the Schengen Borders Code.

In addition to the publication in the Official Journal, a monthly update is available on the website of Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

Replacement of the information published in OJ C 238, 8.8.2012.

SPECIMEN CARDS ISSUED BY FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE MEMBER STATES

Diplomatic identity card is issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the following remarks:

REMARKS	EXPLANATION	
D	Members of diplomatic missions – diplomat personnel	
K	Members of a consulate – consular officers	
MO/D	Members of international organizations who enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities	
ATP	Administrative and technical members of diplomatic missions	
KZ	Members of a consulate – consular employees	
MO/ATP	Members of international organizations who enjoy the same privileges and immunities as the administrative and technical staff of diplomatic missions	
МО	Members of international organizations who enjoy privileges and immunities according to a relevant agreement	
SP, resp. SP/K	Members of service personnel of diplomatic missions or consulates	
SSO, resp. SSO/K	Personal servants of members of diplomatic missions or consulates	

i) The diplomatic identity card was issued with black colour inscription on the cover page 'Diplomatický identifikační průkaz/Diplomatic Identity Card' till 14 August 2017 with a max. validity of 4 years – in circulation until August 2021.

ii) Since 15 August 2017 the new diplomatic identity card is issued with black colour inscription on the cover page 'Identifikační průkaz/Identity Card' to EU citizens.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(1)</sup> See the list of previous publications at the end of this update.

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This document is a paper card laminated in foil  $(105 \times 74 \text{ mm})$ . On the front it bears a photograph of the holder and states his/her name, nationality, date of birth, sex, function, address and the date of expiry of the ID card. On the back it states that the card is an official document and a proof of identity valid only in the Czech Republic.

iii) Since 15 August 2017 the new diplomatic identity card is issued with black colour inscription on the cover page 'Identifikační průkaz a povolení k pobytu/Identity Card and long-term residence permit' to the third country nationals.

This document is a paper card laminated in foil  $(105 \times 74 \text{ mm})$ . On the front it bears a photograph of the holder and states his/her name, nationality, date of birth, sex, function, address and the date of expiry of the ID card. On the back it states that the card is an official document and a proof of identity, as well as a proof of long-term residence in the Czech Republic.





ВЕЛИТИКА СМ РИЙСКА. И РОДЫЕ USTANOVUPA J IBBE ZAKONA C. 26/1999 S. VEREINOU LETTINOU PLATNOU PUZIENA LZARA J CARL CESK RAPPELIKA, KETEROU CARDON PERSONAL J DUPONA TICK EN KONZILANIDA RODENTARY AND RESERVATION OF THE CONTRACT OF THE DUPONAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTRACT OF RODENTARY PERSONAL DUPONAL TICKYCH VYSAD A MUNICH DLE VIDENSKE UMLLIVY O DIPLOMATICK KYCH ROTENTARY AND RUKAZ SLOUZI CZUZKOWAJ KAD DUCAL OT TOTOXONI BUTTIFIKAC MPERAZ SLOUZI CZUZKOWAJ KAD DUCAL OT TOTOXONI PUSICI DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI CZUZKOWAJ BUTTIFIKAC MPERAZ SLOUZI CZUZKOWAJ KAD DUCAL OT TOTOXONI VERZI DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA VERZI DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA VERZI DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI VERZI POZIA VERZI DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI VERZI POZIA VERZI DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI VERZI POZIA VERZI DUCAL SLOUZI POZIA DUCAL SLOUZI VERZI POZIA DUCAL S

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#### FRONT



BACK



List of previous publications	
OJ C 247, 13.10.2006, p. 85.	OJ C 238, 8.8.2012, p. 5.
OJ C 153, 6.7.2007, p. 15.	OJ C 255, 24.8.2012, p. 2.
OJ C 64, 19.3.2009, p. 18.	OJ C 242, 23.8.2013, p. 13.
OJ C 239, 6.10.2009, p. 7.	OJ C 38, 8.2.2014, p. 16.
OJ C 304, 10.11.2010, p. 6.	OJ C 133, 1.5.2014, p. 2.
OJ C 273, 16.9.2011, p. 11.	OJ C 360, 11.10.2014, p. 5.
OJ C 357, 7.12.2011, p. 3.	OJ C 397, 12.11.2014, p. 6.
OJ C 88, 24.3.2012, p. 12.	OJ C 77, 27.2.2016, p. 5.
OJ C 120, 25.4.2012, p. 4.	OJ C 174, 14.5.2016, p. 12.
OJ C 182, 22.6.2012, p. 10.	OJ C 236, 30.6.2016, p. 11.
OJ C 214, 20.7.2012, p. 4.	OJ C 279, 23.8.2017, p. 5.

V

(Announcements)

# PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration (Case M.8814 — Melrose/GKN) Candidate case for simplified procedure (Text with EEA relevance) (2018/C 62/04)

1. On 9 February 2018, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (<sup>1</sup>).

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

- Melrose Industries PLC (Melrose) (United Kingdom), a public company listed on the London Stock Exchange, is not controlled by any single shareholder or group of shareholders,
- GKN plc (GKN) (United Kingdom), a public company listed on the London Stock Exchange is not controlled by any single shareholder or group of shareholders.

Melrose acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of GKN.

The concentration is accomplished by way of public bid announced on 17 January 2018.

- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for Melrose: acquisition of high quality manufacturing business with exposure to strong end markets and provision of management services with the view of profiting from their eventual sale. Currently, Melrose has two operating businesses: (i) Brush Electrical Machines that provides products and services for the energy sector; and (ii) Nortek Inc. that manufactures air management products, heating and cooling systems, wireless security, home automation and personal safety systems.
- for GKN: GKN is a global engineering group and its activities are focused on the automotive, aerospace, powder metallurgy systems and wheels and structures for off-highway vehicles.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (<sup>2</sup>) it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. The following reference should always be specified:

M.8814 - Melrose/GKN

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email, by fax, or by post. Please use the contact details below:

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

European Commission Directorate-General for Competition Merger Registry 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel BELGIQUE/BELGIË

#### Prior notification of a concentration

#### (Case M.8811 — IFM/CDPQ/Conmex)

#### Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

#### (2018/C 62/05)

1. On 12 February 2018, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (<sup>1</sup>).

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

- IFM Investors Pty Ltd ('IFM', Australia),

- Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec ('CDPQ', Canada),
- Concesionaria Mexiquense, SA de CV ('Conmex', Mexico).

IFM and CDPQ acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the whole of Conmex.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for IFM: Australian-based global investment manager with assets under management across infrastructure, listed equities, private capital and debt investments.
- for CDPQ: Canadian institutional investor active globally which manages funds primarily for public and para-public pension and insurance plans. It invests in major financial markets, private equity, infrastructure and real estate.
- for Conmex: engaged in the building and operation of the group of toll roads that form the Mexiquense Beltway (Sistema Carretero del Oriente del Estado de México, also known as Circuito Exterior Mexiquense and the Vialidad Mexiquense) in Mexico.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (<sup>2</sup>) it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. The following reference should always be specified:

#### M.8811 — IFM/CDPQ/Conmex

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email, by fax, or by post. Please use the contact details below:

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

European Commission Directorate-General for Competition Merger Registry 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel BELGIQUE/BELGIË

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

#### OTHER ACTS

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION

# Publication of an application for approval of a minor amendment in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2018/C 62/06)

The European Commission has approved this minor amendment in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 6(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 664/2014 (<sup>1</sup>).

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A MINOR AMENDMENT

# Application for approval of a minor amendment in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (<sup>2</sup>)

#### 'CABRALES'

#### EU No: PDO-ES-0081-AM01 — 20.10.2017

PDO(X)PGI()TSG()

#### 1. Applicant group and legitimate interest

Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Protegida 'CABRALES' (Regulatory Board for the 'CABRALES' Protected Designation of Origin).

Ctra. General, s/n 33555 Carreña de Cabrales ASTURIAS ESPAÑA

Tel. +34 985845335 Email: dop@quesocabrales.org Internet: http://www.quesocabrales.org/

The Regulatory Board is the operators' representative group, and is officially recognised for the purposes of managing the PDO in accordance with the rules in force (ORDER of 29 June 1990 ratifying the Regulation on the Designation of Origin 'Cabrales' and its Regulatory Board). Its powers for proposing amendments to the specification are defined in its purposes and functions.

#### 2. Member State or Third Country

Spain

#### 3. Heading in the product specification affected by the amendment

- ─ □ Description of product
- $\Box$  Proof of origin
- $\Box$  Method of production
- 🗆 Link
- $\boxtimes$  Labelling
- $\boxtimes$  Other: Inspection body

#### 4. Type of amendment(s)

— □ Amendment to the product specification of a registered PDO or PGI to be qualified as minor in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 and requiring no amendment to the published single document.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 179, 19.6.2014, p. 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

- Amendment to the product specification of a registered PDO or PGI to be qualified as minor in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 and requiring an amendment to the published single document.
- ⊠ Amendment to product specification of registered PDO or PGI to be qualified as minor in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, for which a single document (or equivalent) has not been published.
- □ Amendment to product specification of registered TSG to be qualified as minor in accordance with the fourth subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012.

#### 5. Amendment(s)

#### 1. Section (G) 'Inspection body'

Current text

'(G) Inspection body

Inspection of the "Cabrales" Designation of Origin is the responsibility of its Regulatory Board, which consists of representatives of producers and processors, and is made up of the following:

- a president
- a vice-president
- two members representing the livestock sector
- six members representing the artisanal processing sector
- two technical members with specific expertise in livestock and dairy farming.

Members are democratically elected every four years.

Powers:

In terms of territory: within the area of production, processing and ripening.

With regard to the product: products covered by the Protected Designation of Origin, at all stages of production, processing, ripening, circulation and marketing.

With regard to persons: those entered in the various registers.

Duties:

- drawing up and checking the various registers,
- providing guidelines for, overseeing and monitoring the production, processing and quality of the protected cheese,
- assessing the product,
- promoting and defending the Protected Designation of Origin,
- deciding on disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with the Regulation,
- acting with full legal responsibility and capacity to enter into obligations and be a party in legal proceedings, taking action befitting its role of representing and defending the general interests of the Designation of Origin.'

New, amended text

'(G) Inspection body

Checking compliance with the requirements in this product specification is the responsibility of:

The Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Protegida "CABRALES" (Regulatory Board for the "CABRALES" Protected Designation of Origin). Address: Ctra. General, s/n, 33555 Carreña de Cabrales (Asturias)

Tel. +34 985845335 Fax +34 985845130 Email: dop@quesocabrales.org

#### Scope of checks

The Regulatory Board for the "Cabrales" PDO contains an inspection body (Department of Certification) which acts as a certification body for the product and is accredited in compliance with the specific reference standard (UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012, or the standard which replaces it). This body carries out inspections of cheese dairies and ripening caves to verify compliance with the requirements laid down in the product specification for the "Cabrales" PDO.

These inspections include taking samples of the product which have been assessed as suitable and identified by the operators as being protected by the PDO, in order to carry out physico-chemical and organoleptic tests.

#### Monitoring methodology

Verification of compliance with the product specification will be based on the following actions:

- inspecting livestock farms to check the characteristics associated with the raw material,
- inspecting the milk collection centres to ensure traceability,
- performing audits (initial, follow-up, extraordinary) on processing plants (cheese dairies and ripening caves) to check the production process and the product,
- taking samples of the product to carry out physico-chemical and organoleptic tests.

The assessments listed above are carried out at least annually.

The samples are taken during audits on operators who label their cheese with the "Cabrales" PDO. The sampling is done by applying proportionality criteria based on the type of product and the volume of production. The physico-chemical analyses take place in accredited laboratories.

The livestock farms are not subject to certification, but form part of the inspection of the process. Certification is issued only to cheese dairies and ripening caves, as users of the PDO mark.

Duties:

- drawing up and checking the various registers,
- verifying the inspection of the production, processing and quality of the protected cheese,
- evaluating the self-monitoring measures taken by the operators included in the product certification process,
- issuing certifications to cheese dairies and ripening caves which meet the requirements of the product specification,
- promoting and defending the Protected Designation of Origin.'

Grounds

The definition of the inspection body has been amended in terms of its composition and powers. This is in response to the need to adjust the system of inspection in place, in order to perform the tasks delegated and to act in compliance with standard ISO/IEC 17065.

#### 2. Heading (H) 'Labelling'

Current text

'(H) Labelling

The commercial labels of each registered company must be approved by the Regulatory Board.

Labels must bear the following wording: Denominación de Origen "Cabrales".

Cheese intended for consumption must bear a label, secondary label or numbered seal issued by the Regulatory Board.

Given that the majority of cheesemakers are involved in small-scale production, a single label has been adopted for all cheesemakers, upon which different silhouettes — of one, two or all three species — indicate the type of milk used during processing.

(An example of each type has been enclosed.)'

New, amended text

(H) Labelling

The commercial labels of each registered company must be communicated to the Regulatory Board as regards the requirements listed in this product specification for their inclusion in the register.

Labels must bear the following wording: Denominación de Origen Protegida "Cabrales".

Products intended for consumption must bear a label and a secondary label consisting of a red stripe flanked by two green stripes and the logo of the Regulatory Board, along with the corresponding numerals issued by the Regulatory Board. These must be affixed at the cheese dairy in such a way that they cannot be reused.

Given that the majority of cheesemakers are involved in small-scale production, a single label has been adopted for all cheesemakers, upon which different silhouettes — of one, two or all three species — indicate the type of milk used during processing.

(An example of each type has been enclosed.)'

Grounds

This section has been amended with regard to the Regulatory Board's powers as an inspection body.

The amendment is considered minor as it does not relate to the product's essential characteristics, it does not alter the link, nor does it affect the geographical area or represent an increase in the restrictions on trade in the product or its raw materials, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 (Article 53(2) of which refers to minor amendments).

SINGLE DOCUMENT

#### 'CABRALES'

#### EU No: PDO-ES-0081-AM01 — 20.10.2017

PDO(X)PGI()

1. Name

'Cabrales'

2. Member State or Third Country

Spain

#### 3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff

3.1. Type of product

Class 1.3. Cheeses

#### 3.2. Description of product to which the name in (1) applies

Blue-veined cheese made from raw cow's milk, sheep's milk or goat's milk or a mixture of two or all three types of milk — which must always be whole — with a balanced composition in terms of fats and proteins.

Ripened in caves for at least two months counting from the production of the curd.

Characteristics of the ripened cheeses:

- Shape: cylindrical with smooth sides.
- Height: from 7 to 15 centimetres.
- Weight and diameter: variable.
- Rind: soft, thin, oily, grey with reddish-yellow areas.
- Body: oily consistency, although with a varying degree of cohesion, depending on the cheese's level of fermentation. Compact, and without eyes. White in parts, with greenish-blue veins. Slightly piquant flavour, which is stronger in cheeses made from pure sheep's milk or goat's milk or a mixture.
- Fat: no less than 45 % in dry matter.
- Minimum moisture content of 30 %.

- 3.3. Feed (for products of animal origin only) and raw materials (for processed products only)
  - (a) Feed

The livestock is fed according to traditional practices, making direct use of the pastures and supplementing this with feed.

(b) Raw materials

Raw cow's milk, sheep's milk or goat's milk from livestock farms located in the defined geographical area. Rennet exclusively of animal origin.

3.4. Specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographical area

Both the production of the milk and the processing and ripening of the cheese must take place in the defined geographical area.

3.5. Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc. of the product the registered name refers to

Packaging must take place within the defined geographical area so as to guarantee certain optimal conditions for the quality of the product. This allows the cheesemakers themselves to preserve the authenticity of the product, and makes traceability checks easier.

3.6. Specific rules concerning labelling of the product the registered name refers to

The commercial labels on the cheeses must bear the words 'Denominación de Origen Protegida Cabrales', as well as the EU logo for Protected Designations of Origin.

The cheeses must also carry a secondary label, each with its own serial number, codified according to the format of the cheese that it is certifying. These secondary labels must be approved, checked and supplied by the inspection body in such a way that they cannot be reused.

#### 4. Concise definition of the geographical area

The production area of the milk suitable for making 'Cabrales' cheese comprises the villages of Arangas, Arenas, Asiego, Berodia, Bulnes, Camarmeña, Canales, Carreña, Escobar, Inguanzo, La Molina, La Salce, Ortiguero, Pandiello, Puertas, Poo, Sotres and Tielve in the municipality of Cabrales, and Oceño, Cáraves and Rozagas in the municipality of Peñamellera Alta, all of which fall within the Picos de Europa area in the province of Asturias.

The cheese is also processed and ripened in the production area.

#### 5. Link with the geographical area

#### Specificity of the product

The specificity of Cabrales cheese, which makes it unique in relation to other cheeses, is determined by its organoleptic characteristics (rind and body).

#### Specificity of the area

This is reflected in the following natural and human factors:

1. Natural factors

The Picos de Europa, situated in the south-eastern part of the province of Asturias and extending somewhat into Leon and Cantabria, are made up of mountainous massifs, which rise from the northern slopes of the Cantabrian Mountains, and vast pastures situated at altitudes above 800 metres.

#### 2. Human factors

Due to the isolation experienced by generations of inhabitants in this area, their economy is based on the exhaustive use and exploitation of the natural resources.

Firstly, the resources of the human settlements located in the Picos de Europa were traditionally based on the use of pastures in the summertime to feed a range of livestock, in general coming from the villages on the borders of the Picos. During the summer, the animals are free to roam the difficult pastures of the *peña* (the name given to the Picos de Europa by local residents). Every small village has its own fold, which is farmed communally, but is made up of various herds, each owned by a different resident. In the summer, they are transferred to a few residents who are responsible for looking after and managing the livestock, while the others remain in the village and focus on harvesting and haymaking.

Secondly, thanks to the specific expertise of the local producers and the fact that difficulties in communication meant that the points of consumption were so remote, the milk was turned into cheese by the herders themselves.

Causal link between the specific nature of the area and the production and characteristics of the product

(a) Ripening caves

The existence of caves and caverns of different sizes and characteristics is due to karst formations and the peculiar dynamic between air and water found in the limestone mass of the Picos de Europa, which is one of the thickest in Europe.

The ripening caves are sometimes close to the fold or the herder's house, but the majority are far away, and access along the winding mountain paths is difficult. They are located at altitudes between 800 and 1 200 metres, and those at higher altitudes are considered to be of greater quality.

The conditions a cave must meet in order to be suitable for ripening 'Cabrales' are as follows: it must be deep, with a north-facing entry; it must have at least two openings to the outside (one for access and another for ventilation) to create a current of air inside known as a *soplado*; and it must have flowing water. This causes the air in the cave to move slightly and gives it very high humidity (over 90%), while keeping the temperature between 6 °C and 10 °C.

In these conditions, the walls are covered with mould, principally *Penicillium roqueforti*, and the air currents or *sopla- dos* loosen its spores, which fall on the cheese, germinate and enter the body of the cheese.

In order to ripen sufficiently, the cheeses must remain in the caves for two to five months on wooden shelves (*talameras*). During this time they are periodically turned and cleaned.

Once the ripening process had finished, the cheeses used to be wrapped in leaves of the *Acer pseudoplatanus* to make them easier to handle during marketing. Nowadays, for cheeses covered by the designation of origin, this practice has been replaced by the use of food wrapping paper with leaves printed onto it.

(b) Reputation

There are accounts that attest to the reputation of 'Cabrales' cheese. For example, the writings of Jovellanos (18th century), Madoz's *Diccionario Geográfico*, edited in the early nineteenth century, and González Solís's *Memorias Asturianas* all state that 'Cabrales' cheeses were presented at the Agricultural Exhibition in Madrid in 1857, along-side other Asturian products.

In 1911, in their report on dairy farming in Santander, the Alvarado brothers began their journey in the region of Cabrales, climbing the Picos de Europa to 'visit' the caves of the herders who make the famous 'Cabrales' cheese.

#### Reference to publication of the specification

(the second subparagraph of Article 6(1) of this Regulation)

https://www.asturias.es/Asturias/descargas/PDF\_TEMAS/Agricultura/Alimentaci%C3%B3n/Queso%20Cabrales %20(MODIFICADO).pdf

#### Publication of a cancellation request pursuant to Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs in conjunction with Article 7(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 664/2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012

(2018/C 62/07)

This publication confers the right to oppose the cancellation request pursuant to Article 51(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (<sup>1</sup>) and Article 7(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 664/2014 (<sup>2</sup>).

CANCELLATION REQUEST

Cancellation request in accordance with Article 54(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012

#### 'MOSTVIERTLER BIRNMOST'

EU No: PGI-AT-02385 — 14.8.2017

PDO() PGI(X) TSG()

#### 1. Registered name proposed for cancellation

'Mostviertler Birnmost'

#### 2. Member State or Third Country

Austria

#### 3. Type of product

Class 1.8. — Other products listed in Annex I (spices, etc.)

#### 4. Person or body making the request for cancellation

Regionalverband noewest-mostviertel Mostviertelplatz 1 3362 Öhling ÖSTERREICH

Tel. +43 747553340300 Fax +43 747553340350 Email: office@regionalverband.at

The requester is the legal successor to the original applicant group for the geographical indication 'Mostviertler Birnmost' and therefore has a legitimate interest in relation to the cancellation request.

#### 5. Type of cancellation and related reasons

- □ In accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 54(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012
- $\Box$  Point (a)
- □ Point (b)
- $\boxtimes$  In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 54(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012

The requester currently appears to be the sole user of the protected geographical indication. She has no further interest in using the name 'Mostviertler Birnmost' as a protected geographical indication and therefore does not wish to bear the inspection costs. For the purposes of selling the product locally (approximately 90 % is sold in the geographical area), having a protected name is not important because the name is already well known there. The low production volumes (approx. 300 l of Birnmost per firm; only three firms currently produce it) and the fact that the product is not very well known outside the region also support cancelling the protection for the name 'Mostviertler Birnmost'.

No legitimate interests in opposing the cancellation of the protected geographical indication have come to light. All known producers of the protected geographical indication 'Mostviertler Birnmost' approve of the cancellation of the registered name and support the cancellation request.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 179, 19.6.2014, p. 17.

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