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EN

Price:
EUR 3

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

⁽²⁾ Text with EEA relevance, except for products falling under Annex I to the Treaty

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

I

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

OPINIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

COMMISSION OPINION

of 30 March 2012

relating to the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste arising from the extension of the repository for very low-active waste CSTFA, located in France, in accordance with Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty

(Only the French text is authentic)

(2012/C 99/01)

The assessment below is carried out under the provisions of the Euratom Treaty, without prejudice to any additional assessments to be carried out under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the obligations stemming from it and from secondary legislation.

On 17 October 2011, the European Commission received from the French Government, in accordance with Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, General Data relating to the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste arising from the extension of the repository for very low-active waste CSTFA, located in France.

The extension of the CSTFA concerns the construction of two new buildings for the management of very low-active radioactive waste: the consolidation and the storage buildings.

On the basis of these data, and following consultation with the Group of Experts, the Commission has drawn up the following opinion:

1. The distance from the site to the border of the nearest Member State, in this case Belgium is 138 km.
2. The consolidation and storage buildings of the CSTFA will not be the subject of a specific discharge authorisation. Discharges of gaseous and liquid radioactive effluents are not foreseen. Nevertheless, under normal operating conditions, radioactive gases will emanate from these buildings through natural diffusion processes without however causing an exposure of the population of another Member State that is significant from the point of view of health.
3. In the event of unplanned releases of radioactive effluents which may follow an accident of the type and magnitude considered in the General Data, the doses likely to be received by the population of another Member State would not be significant from the point of view of health.

In conclusion, the Commission is of the opinion that the implementation of the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste in whatever form from the extension of the repository for very low-active waste CSTFA, located in France, both in normal operation and in the event of an accident of the type and magnitude considered in the General Data, is not liable to result in radioactive contamination of the water, soil or airspace of another Member State that would be significant from the point of view of health.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 2012.

For the Commission
Günther OETTINGER
Member of the Commission

II

(Information)

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU**Cases where the Commission raises no objections**

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2012/C 99/02)

Date of adoption of the decision	25.1.2012
Reference number of State Aid	SA.32562 (11/N)
Member State	Greece
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Greek Post [Ελληνικά Ταχυδρομεία Α.Ε. (ΕΛ.ΤΑ. Α.Ε.)]
Legal basis	Ταχυδρομικός νόμος Ν 2668/98, όπως τροποποιήθηκε από τον Ν 3185/03 συμβόλαιο διοίκησης μεταξύ ΕΛΤΑ και Ελληνικού Δημοσίου
Type of measure	Individual aid
Objective	Services of general economic interest
Form of aid	Direct grant
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 52 million
Intensity	—
Duration (period)	2011-2012
Economic sectors	Post and telecommunications
Name and address of the granting authority	Hellenic Republic Ministry of Finance (Υπουργείο Οικονομικών) Nikis 5-7 101 80 Athens GREECE
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/state_aids_texts_en.htm

Date of adoption of the decision	21.12.2011
Reference number of State Aid	SA.34034 (11/N)
Member State	Portugal
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Extension of the Portuguese guarantee scheme
Legal basis	Lei n.º 60-A/2008, de 20 de outubro, Lei do Orçamento do Estado para 2012 (Proposta de lei n.º 42/XI)
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Aid to remedy serious disturbances in the economy
Form of aid	Guarantee
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 29 920 million
Intensity	—
Duration (period)	Until 30.6.2012
Economic sectors	Financial intermediation
Name and address of the granting authority	Ministro de Estado e das Finanças Av. Infante D. Henrique 1.º 1149-009 Lisboa PORTUGAL
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/state_aids_texts_en.htm

Date of adoption of the decision	22.12.2011
Reference number of State Aid	SA.34064 (11/N)
Member State	Greece
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Second rescue recapitalisation of NBG under the Greek recapitalisation scheme
Legal basis	Law 3723/2008 regarding the 'Support Measures for the Credit Institutions (Guarantee, Recapitalisation, Bond Loan Schemes)'

Type of measure	Individual aid under an approved scheme
Objective	Aid to remedy serious disturbances in the economy
Form of aid	Recapitalisation
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 1 000 million
Intensity	—
Duration (period)	—
Economic sectors	Financial intermediation
Name and address of the granting authority	Ministry of Finance Nikis 5-7 101 65 Athens GREECE
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/state_aids_texts_en.htm

Date of adoption of the decision	8.3.2012
Reference number of State Aid	SA.34077 (11/N)
Member State	Hungary
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Extension of the Hungarian bank support scheme (recapitalisations)
Legal basis	Act CIV of 2008 on the Reinforcement of the Stability of the Financial Intermediary System (Official Gazette No 2008/187)
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Aid to remedy serious disturbances in the economy
Form of aid	Other forms of equity intervention
Budget	Overall budget: HUF 300 000 million
Intensity	—
Duration (period)	8.3.2012-30.6.2012
Economic sectors	Financial intermediation

Name and address of the granting authority	Nemzetgazdasági Minisztérium Budapest József nádor tér 2–4. 1051 MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/state_aids_texts_en.htm

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(Text with EEA relevance, except for products falling under Annex I to the Treaty)

(2012/C 99/03)

Date of adoption of the decision	7.3.2012	
Reference number of State Aid	SA.33627 (11/N)	
Member State	Italy	
Region	—	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Misura 224 — Indennità Natura 2000	
Legal basis	<p>Decreto legislativo n. 227/2001.</p> <p>Decreto ministeriale 16 giugno 2005 «Linee guida di programmazione forestale».</p> <p>Programma quadro nazionale per il settore forestale (PQSF).</p> <p>Indirizzi di gestione forestale per i siti della rete Natura 2000.</p> <p>DPR 8 settembre 1997, n. 357.</p> <p>DPR 12 marzo 2003, n. 120.</p> <p>Decreto del Ministero dell'Ambiente 11 giugno 2007.</p> <p>Decreto del Ministero dell'Ambiente 3 settembre 2002.</p> <p>Decreto del Ministero dell'Ambiente 17 ottobre 2007.</p> <p>Decreto del Ministero dell'Ambiente 19 giugno 2009 e successive modificazioni.</p> <p>Decreto 2 agosto 2010.</p> <p>Direttiva 92/43/CEE del Consiglio, del 21 maggio 1992 (cd. Direttiva Habitat).</p> <p>Direttiva 79/409/CEE del Consiglio, del 2 aprile 1979 (cd. Direttiva Uccelli).</p> <p>Direttiva 2009/147/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio del 30 novembre 2009. Risoluzione del Consiglio relativa a una Strategia forestale per l'Unione europea 1999/C 56/01.</p> <p>Comunicazione della Commissione al Consiglio e al Parlamento europeo sull'attuazione della Strategia forestale dell'Unione europea COM(2005) 84 def. del 10 marzo 2005.</p> <p>Comunicazione della Commissione al Consiglio e al Parlamento europeo: Piano d'azione dell'UE per le foreste (Forest Action Plan) sull'attuazione della Strategia forestale dell'Unione europea COM(2006) 302 def. del 15 giugno 2006.</p> <p>Risoluzione del Consiglio relativa a una Strategia forestale per l'Unione europea 1999/C 56/01</p>	
Type of measure	Scheme	—
Objective	Forestry	
Form of aid	Direct grant	
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 8,94 million	
Intensity	100 %	
Duration (period)	Until 31.12.2013	
Economic sectors	Forestry and logging	

Name and address of the granting authority	Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali Dipartimento delle politiche competitive del mondo rurale e della qualità Via XX Settembre 20 00187 Roma RM ITALIA
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/state_aids_texts_en.htm

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾**2 April 2012**

(2012/C 99/04)

1 euro =

Currency			Exchange rate		
Currency			Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,3319	AUD	Australian dollar	1,2841
JPY	Japanese yen	109,95	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,3300
DKK	Danish krone	7,4407	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	10,3429
GBP	Pound sterling	0,83105	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,6251
SEK	Swedish krona	8,8052	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,6711
CHF	Swiss franc	1,2044	KRW	South Korean won	1 501,86
ISK	Iceland króna		ZAR	South African rand	10,2050
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,5505	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	8,3836
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,4953
CZK	Czech koruna	24,773	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	12 174,94
HUF	Hungarian forint	295,00	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,0683
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	PHP	Philippine peso	56,979
LVL	Latvian lats	0,7009	RUB	Russian rouble	39,2200
PLN	Polish zloty	4,1445	THB	Thai baht	41,082
RON	Romanian leu	4,3823	BRL	Brazilian real	2,4340
TRY	Turkish lira	2,3760	MXN	Mexican peso	17,0243
			INR	Indian rupee	67,7620

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

V

*(Announcements)*PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION
POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.6543 — Ahold/Flevo)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2012/C 99/05)

1. On 23 March 2012, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which Koninklijke Ahold NV (the Netherlands), the parent company of Ahold Group ('Ahold'), acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Flevo Deelnemingen III BV ('Flevo', the Netherlands), the holding company of bol.com NV ('bol.com', the Netherlands), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Ahold: offline and online retailing of foodstuffs, daily consumer goods, health and beauty care products, wine and liquor,
- for Flevo (bol.com): online retailing of books, e-books, DVDs, music, computer games, toys, customer electronics, computers and consumer software in the Netherlands and Belgium.

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

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. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by e-mail to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.6543 — Ahold/Flevo, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
J-70
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.6501 — Scholz Austria/Asamer Familienholding/RPE Recyclingpark Eisenerz)****Candidate case for simplified procedure****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2012/C 99/06)

1. On 26 March 2012, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertakings Scholz Austria GmbH ('Scholz Austria', Austria), ultimately controlled by Scholz AG and Voestalpine AG, and Asamer Familienholding GmbH ('Asamer', Austria) indirectly acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the undertaking RPE Recyclingpark Eisenerz ('RPE', Austria) by way of purchase of shares. RPE is currently solely controlled by Asamer.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Scholz Austria: active in recycling and trading of recyclable products such as steel, metal scrap, industrial waste and other materials,
- for Asamer: active in gravel, rocks, concrete, cement, recycling, innovation and tourism,
- for RPE: operation of a mechanical waste treatment plant for different types of waste.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the EC 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 the EC Merger Regulation ⁽²⁾ 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. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.6501 — Scholz Austria/Asamer Familienholding/RPE Recyclingpark Eisenerz, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
J-70
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32 ('Notice on a simplified procedure').

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.6550 — TowerBrook/York/Apollo/Monier)****Candidate case for simplified procedure****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2012/C 99/07)

1. On 26 March 2012, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertakings TowerBrook Capital Partners (UK) LLP ('TowerBrook', United Kingdom), York Capital Global Management Advisors, LLC ('York', USA) and AIF VII Euro Holdings, L.P., LLC, an investment fund managed by an affiliate of Apollo Management L.P. ('Apollo', USA) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the undertakings Monier Holdings S.C.A. and Monier Holdings GP SA ('Monier', Luxembourg) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for TowerBrook: private equity investment,
- for York: management of investment funds,
- for Apollo: portfolio investments,
- for Monier: manufacturer and supplier of roofing tiles, components for roofs and chimney and ventilation systems.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the EC 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 the EC Merger Regulation ⁽²⁾ 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. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.6550 — TowerBrook/York/Apollo/Monier, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
J-70
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32 ('Notice on a simplified procedure').

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.6512 — DS Smith/SCA Packaging)
(Text with EEA relevance)
(2012/C 99/08)

1. On 28 March 2012, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertaking DS Smith Plc ('DS Smith', United Kingdom) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of the undertaking SCA Packaging Holding BV ('SCA Packaging', The Netherlands) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for DS Smith: manufacture of plastic and corrugated packaging,
- for SCA Packaging: manufacture of corrugated packaging.

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

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. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by e-mail to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.6512 — DS Smith/SCA Packaging, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
J-70
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').

OTHER ACTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2012/C 99/09)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 ⁽¹⁾. Statements of objection must reach the Commission within six months from the date of this publication.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006**‘东山白芦笋’ (DONGSHAN BAI LU SUN)****EC No: CN-PGI-0005-0624-16.07.2007****PGI (X) PDO ()****1. Name:**

‘东山白芦笋’ (‘Dongshan Bai Lu Sun’)

2. Member State or third country:

China

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff:**3.1. Type of product:**

Class 1.6 — Fruit, vegetables and cereals fresh or processed

3.2. Description of product to which the name in point 1 applies:

‘Dongshan Bai Lu Sun’ is a canned asparagus cultivated by traditional production techniques in Dongshan (Island) County in Zhangzhou City in Fujian province. The canned asparagus is cooked and peeled.

Appearance

The canned asparagus stem is thick with a round tip and the squama is dense. The length of asparagus is 10-17 cm. The length of the green stem tip is no more than 1 cm. It's delicate and has a pleasant flavour. Canned asparagus is snowy white in colour. The surrounding liquid is consistent in colour.

Physical and chemical indicators

Stem diameter of 0,4-2,6 cm, crude fibre content $\leq 1,0$ %, and soluble sugar content $\geq 4,70$ %.
Solution: brine with 0,03 % citric acid.

Packaging specifications

The product is packaged in glass bottles or tin cans. The main packaging specifications are as follows:

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12.

(a) Glass bottles

Size of glass can	Length of asparagus
212 ml	7 cm
212 ml	11 cm
370 ml	16 cm
370 ml	17 cm
580 ml	16 cm
580 ml	17 cm
314 ml	10 cm
1 700 ml	17 cm
720 ml	17 cm

(b) Tin cans

Size of tin can	Length of asparagus
200 g	10 cm
250 g	13 cm
430 g	11 cm
800 g	16 cm
2 500 g	15 cm
2 950 g	17 cm

3.3. *Raw materials (for processed products only):*

Fresh asparagus of Gi jnlm and Thielim varieties.

3.4. *Feed (for products of animal origin only):*

—

3.5. *Specific steps in production that must take place in the defined geographical area:*

All the specific steps in production take place in the defined geographical area.

3.6. *Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc.:*

The product should be packaged in glass bottles or tin cans. Processing and canning has to take place within 12 hours of harvest to ensure the asparagus is fresh.

3.7. *Specific rules concerning labelling:*

—

4. **Concise definition of the geographical area:**

The production area of 'Dongshan Bai Lu Sun' comprises seven towns of Dongshan (Island) County in Fujian province, namely Kangmei town, Chencheng town, Qianlou town, Xipu town, Zhangtang town, Xingchen town and Tongling town.

5. **Link with the geographical area:**5.1. *Specificity of the geographical area:*

Dongshan County is located between northern latitude of 23° 34' and 23° 47' and eastern longitude of 117° 18' and 117° 35' and is surrounded by sea. It has a southern Asian tropical marine climate, which is warm in winter and cool in summer. It is an island county at the most southern tip of Fujian province. The total land area of the county is 248 square kilometres, with an arable area of 70 000 mu (1 mu ≈ 0,07 ha). The population of the county is 213 000, of which 137 000 belong to the

agricultural population. There are seven towns in the county, including 61 administrative villages and 16 residents committees. It is an agricultural county that mainly grows white asparagus. The island is rich in agricultural resources. The arable land is mostly sand soil rich in silver sea sand, sea mud and underground water resources. These conditions are very conducive to growing white asparagus.

5.2. *Specificity of the product:*

'Dongshan Bai Lu Sun' has a very high quality. It is attractive in appearance, has a pleasant flavour, fresh taste and is rich in nutrition. Canned asparagus is popular with customers both at home and abroad.

The specificity of the product is based on the characteristics of fresh asparagus that are due to the geographical environment, natural conditions and human factors of Dongshan County where it is grown.

Fresh asparagus is cultivated in the special environment of Dongshan. The asparagus stem is thick with a round tip and the squama is dense. The length of the green stem tip is no more than 1 cm. It's delicate and has a pleasant flavour. The canned delicate stem is snowy white. The colour of the surrounding liquid is consistent. Canned asparagus has a long shelf life.

5.3. *Causal link between the geographical area and the quality or characteristics of the product (for PDO) or a specific quality, the reputation or other characteristic of the product (for PGI):*

1. The relationship between temperature and quality

The product is grown in a southern Asian tropical marine climate, which is warm in winter and cool in summer. The average annual temperature is 20,8 °C. The highest temperatures occur in July and August with an average temperature of 27 °C; and the lowest temperature occurs in February, which has an average temperature of 12,8 °C. Growing in this type of climate, the asparagus grows vigorously with a high yield and good quality.

2. The relationship between soil and quality

The soil in Dongshan is mostly sand soil, which is soft with good ventilation and conducive to the growth of the asparagus' roots. Growing in the soil, the roots can grow strong, and the leaves will form quickly and abundantly. This means that more photosynthetic products are accumulated, which supply energy for the growth of young stems.

3. The relationship between water and quality

Dongshan is located on an island with an annual precipitation of 1 095 mm, which is not evenly distributed among the seasons. The water used in irrigating 'Bai Lu Sun' comes from a deep source. The quality of the irrigation water is good, free from pollution. This gives the asparagus a fresh taste.

4. The relationship between sunlight and quality

Dongshan County has abundant sunlight, with annual average daylight hours reaching 2 386,8 hours. Sunlight is especially plentiful in autumn and winter. Abundant sunlight is conducive to photosynthesis of the stem and leaves. The more photosynthesis, the more nutrients are provided for the growth of stems, which greatly contributes to the high yield and quality of 'Dongshan Bai Lu Sun'.

5. The relationship between the atmospheric environment and quality

Dongshan County is surrounded by sea and has an oceanic climate with fresh air. There are few industrial enterprises and no heavy industry located here, so the air is free from pollution. An inspection carried out by the Institute of Environmental Sciences of Zhangzhou City shows that the levels of SO₂, nitrogen oxides and fluorine in the air are very low.

Dongshan County is an environmentally robust area. It has a 34,1 % forestry coverage and is regarded as the 'oasis of the East China Sea'. Dongshan County passed the inspection of the first batch of Island Ecological Agriculture Counties in China in 1998. These environmental conditions greatly contribute to the premium quality of 'Dongshan Bai Lu Sun'.

6. The relationship between production technique and quality

1. Softening cultivation with sand

Dongshan County has rich sea sand resources. The sand is silver white and very small, and is used to earth up white asparagus. Therefore, the surface of the asparagus stem is snowy white, tender and straight. The squama is dense.

2. Sea mud organic fertiliser

In the main, organic fertiliser is used. Dongshan County has rich resources of sea mud. This provides an ample source of natural organic fertiliser for growing asparagus, which further enhances the quality of 'Dongshan Bai Lu Sun'.

3. Harvesting and mother stalk culture

The 'mother stalk culture' method is used to produce white asparagus in Dongshan County. It balances the conflict between asparagus growth and nutrition accumulation by using natural climatic resources. This results in a high yield, high efficiency and good quality.

Reference to publication of the specification:

(Article 5(7) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006)

Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2012/C 99/10)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 ⁽¹⁾. Statements of objection must reach the Commission within six months of the date of this publication.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006

‘SALE MARINO DI TRAPANI’

EC No: IT-PGI-0005-0892-09.09.2011

PGI (X) PDO ()

1. Name:

‘Sale Marino di Trapani’

2. Member State or third country:

Italy

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff:

3.1. Product type:

Class 1.8 — Other products of Annex I to the Treaty (spices, etc.)

3.2. Description of the product to which the name in point 1 applies:

The Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) ‘Sale Marino di Trapani’ designates sea salt extracted from the salt pans of Trapani, Paceco and Marsala, located in the area demarcated in point 4.

The chemical reference elements for ‘Sale Marino di Trapani’ are shown in the table below.

Aspect or element	Units of measurement	‘Sale Marino di Trapani’
Insoluble residue	%	< 0,2
Residual moisture	%	< 8
Sodium chloride (of dry matter)	%	> 97,0
Magnesium	%	< 0,70
Potassium	%	< 0,30
Calcium	%	< 0,40
Sulphates	%	< 1,5
Iron	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 20
Lead	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 1,5
Zinc	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 1

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12.

Aspect or element	Units of measurement	'Sale Marino di Trapani'
Copper	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 1
Chromium	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 0,15
Mercury	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 0,05
Cadmium	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 0,15
Arsenic	Mg/kg (ppm)	< 0,1
Iodine	Mg/kg (ppm)	> 0,70

Analytical determinations must be carried out according to the methods set out in the Codex Standard Alimentarius STAN 150-1985.

'Sale Marino di Trapani' shall also have the following chemical-physical qualities in appearance:

colour: white;

consistent crystals;

mixed granule size;

no additives, bleaching agents, preservatives and/or anti-caking agents.

3.3. *Raw materials (for processed products only):*

—

3.4. *Feed (for products of animal origin only):*

—

3.5. *Specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographical area:*

All the production stages of 'Sale Marino di Trapani', from the production of salt in the salt pans to the collection and processing of the salt, must take place in the geographical area identified in point 4.

The processing cycle must include one or more of the following stages:

- washing against the tide in salt water coming from the tanks in the same production area,
- centrifugation,
- mechanical grinding process in local stone mills (grinding by the traditional wind mills) or in stainless steel rolling mills,
- drying in fluidised bed furnaces at a temperature of < 250 °C,
- mechanical sifting to select defined granule intervals.

3.6. *Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc.:*

—

3.7. *Specific rules concerning labelling:*

'Sale Marino di Trapani' is marketed in food-quality packaging bearing a non-reusable guarantee seal of capacities: 1 000 kg, 25 kg, 10 kg, 5 kg, 2 kg, 1 kg, 750 g, 500 g, 250 g, 120 g, 100 g.

The wrapping and packages should clearly and legibly state, in addition to the Community logo, 'IGP — Sale Marino di Trapani', which must be of a colour that strongly contrasts with that of the label itself so as to be clearly distinguishable from the other information provided on the label.

IGP — SALE MARINO DI TRAPANI

IGP — SALE MARINO DI TRAPANI

4. Concise definition of the geographical area:

The geographical area of production of the Protected Geographical Indication 'Sale Marino di Trapani' consists of the Trapani, Paceco and Marsala municipalities (Provincia di Trapani). More specifically, this geographical area includes the salt pans along the coastal strip (known as 'La via del Sale') located south of the residential part of Marsala, north of Trapani, west of the Mediterranean Sea (including the Stagnone di Marsala Islands: Isola Grande and the islands of Mothia and Santa Maria) and east of *strada statale* (State road) 115 (SS 115).

5. Link with the geographical area:

5.1. Specificity of the geographical area:

'Sale Marino di Trapani' is extracted from the salt pans of Trapani, Paceco and Marsala where the extremely clean waters of the Egadi Islands' natural marine reserve favours salt production and is found immediately at the coastline where the entire 'Sale Marino di Trapani' production area is located. The low-lying terrain off the coast, which, in some cases, lies slightly below the average sea level, together with the extremely impermeable nature of the earth, contributes to the suitability of the area for the production of sea salt, making the salt works and its production facilities efficient and economical. Furthermore, the geographical position of the production area is characterised by the scarcity of fresh water and strong currents, which guarantee the constant level of salt and frequent replacement of supply water.

5.2. Specificity of the product:

'Sale Marino di Trapani' is a completely natural salt with no additives, bleaching agents, preservatives or anti-caking agents and is highly valued for its purity by the Italian and EU processing industries.

5.3. Causal link between the geographical area and the quality or characteristics of the product (for PDO) or a specific quality, the reputation or other characteristic of the product (for PGI):

'Sale Marino di Trapani' has an age-old reputation in Italy and internationally, both commercially and in terms of consumption. In confirmation of the long tradition of production and collection of 'Sale Marino di Trapani', historical information exists concerning the commercialisation of the product, which goes back three thousand years to the times when the economy of the Phoenicians was centred on this so-called 'white gold'. The first true testimony of the Trapani salt pans came from the Arab geographer, Al-Abu 'Abd Allah Muhammad (better known as Idrisi or Edrisi), whose book, 'The pleasure of him who longs to cross the horizons', written for the Norman King Roger II of Sicily in 1154, tells of the salt pans found at the gate of the city of Trapani. For centuries, the salt pans were the calling card that allowed Trapani to make a name for itself in Europe, constituting the pride of an area that is naturally suited to producing salt thanks to the favourable climate with strong sun, constant wind and infrequent rain.

The statistics and trade data (Mondini 1999) confirm the reputation of 'Sale Marino di Trapani' in the 16th and 17th centuries. After 1572, following the Turkish conquest of the Island of Cyprus, the Republic of Venice and the Duchy of Milan chose Trapani as their preferred supply market over those of Berletta and Valona that were closer.

The reputation of 'Sale Marino di Trapani' has lasted until the present day and has even been enhanced as a result of the establishment of the *Riserva Naturale Orientata Isole dello Stagnone* and the *Riserva Naturale Orientata delle Saline di Trapani e Paceco*. Further to these two events, the demand for 'Sale Marino di Trapani' has increasingly spread, not only for its intrinsic quality as a product that is already commercially established, but also for the image of the area from which it originates, that is protected and monitored from an environmental point of view. It is no coincidence that the most sophisticated and select food industries, such as ham manufacturers in Emilia, dairies from Ragusa, and other canning industries from Sicily and Campania, choose to use 'Sale Marino di Trapani' in their production processes, especially for its purity which was particularly valued in the early 1900s by the fish-canning industries in northern Europe.

This reputation is also confirmed (especially on an international scale) by the gold medal awarded on the occasion of the *Exposición Internacional de Medicina e Higiene*, Buenos Aires, in 1910.

The huge interest in the area may be seen in the 'Via del Sale' (salt road), defined as the coastal road that marks out the production area and links the cities of Trapani and Marsala from north to south, crossing through the municipality of Paceco, which was put forward as the Italian nomination for the 1995 European Tourism and Environment Prize, promoted by the European Union.

Reference to publication of the specification:

The Ministry launched the national objection procedure with the publication of the proposal for recognising 'Sale Marino di Trapani' as a protected geographical indication in the *Official Gazette of the Italian Republic* No 163 of 15 July 2011.

The full text of the product specification is available on the following website:

<http://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3335>

or

by going directly to the home page of the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy (<http://www.politicheagricole.it>) and clicking on 'Qualità e sicurezza' (in the top right hand corner of the screen) and then on 'Disciplinari di Produzione all'esame dell'UE'.

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