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I

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

OPINIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

COMMISSION OPINION

of 18 April 2018

relating to the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste arising from the Sellafield Self-Shielded Box Interim Storage Facility located in the United Kingdom

(Only the English version is authentic)

(2018/C 139/01)

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 ⁽¹⁾.

On 5 October 2017 the European Commission received from the Government of the United Kingdom, in accordance with Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, General Data relating to the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste ⁽²⁾ arising from the Sellafield Self-Shielded Box Interim Storage Facility.

On the basis of these data and additional information requested by the Commission on 14 November 2017 and provided by the United Kingdom authorities on 15 January 2018, and following consultation with the Group of Experts, the Commission has drawn up the following opinion:

1. The distance from the site to the nearest border of another Member State, in this case Ireland is 180 km.
2. Under normal operating conditions, the discharge of gaseous radioactive effluents is not liable to cause an exposure of the population in another Member State that would be significant from the point of view of health, in respect of the dose limits laid down in the Basic Safety Standards Directive ⁽³⁾. Under normal operating conditions the facility will not discharge liquid radioactive effluents.
3. Secondary solid radioactive waste will be transferred to on-site treatment and conditioning facilities. Conditioned low-level waste will be shipped to the nearby licensed Drigg disposal facility.
4. In the event of unplanned releases of radioactive effluents, which may follow the accident of the type and magnitude considered in the General Data, the doses likely to be received by the population in another Member State would not be significant from the point of view of health, in respect of the reference levels laid down in the Basic Safety Standards Directive.

⁽¹⁾ For instance, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, environmental aspects should be further assessed. Indicatively, the Commission would like to draw attention to the provisions of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU; to Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as well as to Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and to Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

⁽²⁾ The disposal of radioactive waste in the meaning of point 1 of Commission Recommendation 2010/635/Euratom of 11 October 2010 on the application of Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty (OJ L 279, 23.10.2010, p. 36).

⁽³⁾ Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom (OJ L 13, 17.1.2014, p. 1).

In conclusion, the Commission is of the opinion that the implementation of the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste in whatever form, arising from the Sellafield Self-Shielded Box Interim Storage Facility, located in the United Kingdom, both in normal operation and in the event of the accident of the type and magnitude considered in the General Data, is not liable to result in a radioactive contamination, significant from the point of view of health, of the water, soil or airspace of another Member State, in respect of the provisions laid down in the Basic Safety Standards Directive.

Done at Brussels, 18 April 2018.

For the Commission
Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE
Member of the Commission

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Commission Notice amending the European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014 to 2020

(2018/C 139/02)

The European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014 to 2020 ⁽¹⁾ are amended as follows:

(1) in point (75), the following point (s) is added:

‘(s) aid for participation of active farmers in quality schemes for cotton and foodstuffs, in accordance with Section 3.8 of Part II.’;

(2) in point (93), the first sentence is replaced by the following:

‘Member States may fix the aid amount for the measures or types of operations referred to in Sections 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 1.1.7, 1.1.8, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 3.4 and 3.5 of Part II of these Guidelines on the basis of standard assumptions of additional costs and income foregone.’;

(3) point (503) is replaced by the following:

‘(503) Aid for forestry investments which is co-financed under the EAFRD, or granted as additional national financing to such co-financed aid, may cover other eligible costs than those referred to in point (502)(a) to (e), provided that those costs are fully eligible under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and that the aid is identical to the underlying measure included in the rural development programme approved under that Regulation. Where such aid is provided in the form of financial instruments, it may cover also the costs referred to in point 502(f).’;

(4) the heading of Section 2.1.2. of Part II is replaced by the following:

‘2.1.2. Aid for the establishment, regeneration or renovation of agroforestry systems’;

(5) point (513) is replaced by the following:

‘(513) The Commission will consider aid for the establishment, regeneration or renovation of agro-forestry systems compatible with the internal market under Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty if it complies with the common assessment principles of these Guidelines and with the following conditions.’;

(6) point (516) is replaced by the following:

‘(516) The aid covers the costs of the establishment, regeneration or renovation and an annual premium per hectare may be granted to cover the costs of the maintenance for a maximum period of five years.’;

(7) point (518) is replaced by the following:

‘(518) The aid may be up to 80 % of the amount of the eligible investment costs for the establishment, regeneration or renovation of agro-forestry systems, and up to 100 % of the amount of the annual premium.’;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 204, 1.7.2014, p. 1.

(8) after point (536), the following point (536a) is inserted:

‘(536a) The conditions laid down in points (534), (535) and (536) do not apply to aid which is co-financed under the EAFRD, or granted as additional national financing to such co-financed aid, and which is provided in the form of financial instruments.’;

(9) in point (565), the following second sentence is added:

‘Infrastructure installed as a result of demonstration may be used after the operation is completed.’;

(10) after point (567), the following point is inserted:

‘(567a) Aid for demonstration projects which is co-financed under the EAFRD or granted as additional national financing to such co-financed aid, and which is provided in the form of financial instruments, may cover other eligible costs than those referred to in point (293)(d)(i) to (iv) of Section 1.1.10.1, provided that those costs are fully eligible under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and that the aid is identical to the underlying measure included in the rural development programme approved under that regulation.’;

(11) after point (569) the following point is inserted:

‘(569a) Aid which is co-financed under the EAFRD, or granted as additional national financing to such co-financed aid, may be paid to the Managing Authority referred to in point (a) of Article 65(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.’;

(12) in point (635), the introductory wording is replaced by the following:

‘Save where aid is provided in the form of financial instruments, and unless specified otherwise, the eligible costs for investment aid measures falling within the scope of Chapter 3 of Part II of these Guidelines must be limited to the following costs.’;

(13) point (636) is replaced by the following:

‘(636) Save where aid is provided in the form of financial instruments, costs, other than those referred to in point (635), connected with leasing contracts, such as lessor’s margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges will not be considered to be eligible costs.’;

(14) after point (642), the following point (642a) is inserted:

‘(642a) Where aid is provided in the form of financial instruments, the input to the production process may also be a non-agricultural product on condition that the investment contributes to one or more of the Union priorities for rural development.’;

(15) after point (644), the following point (644a) is inserted:

‘(644a) With regard to the infrastructure investments referred to in point (644)(b), (d) and (e), where support is provided in the form of financial instruments, aid is not limited to small-scale infrastructure.’;

(16) in point (645), the following second sentence is added:

‘Such plans are not required with regard to investments for which the support is provided in the form of financial instruments.’;

(17) in point (654), the following third sentence is added:

‘The business plan shall have a maximum duration of five years.’;

(18) in point (656), the first sentence is replaced by the following:

‘The aid must be paid in at least two instalments.’;

(19) point (663) is replaced by the following:

‘(663) Aid to undertakings in rural areas which are not active in the agricultural sector may be provided for the conservation and for the sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture, including non-indigenous resources, for operations not covered by the provisions under points (208) to (219) of Section 1.1.5.1 of Part II of these Guidelines.’;

(20) after point (672), the following point (672a) is inserted:

‘(672a) Infrastructure installed as a result of demonstration may be used after the operation is completed.’;

(21) in point (673), the following third sentence is added:

‘However, aid for the training of advisers may be paid to the Managing Authority referred to in point (a) of Article 65(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.’;

(22) in point (681), the second sentence is replaced by the following:

‘The aid must be paid to the provider of the advisory services or to the Managing Authority referred to in point (a) of Article 65(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.’;

(23) The title of Section 3.8 of Chapter 3 of Part II is replaced by the following:

‘Aid for participation of active farmers in quality schemes for cotton or foodstuffs’;

(24) point (685) is replaced by the following:

‘(685) The Commission will consider aid for new participation, or participation in the five preceding years, of active farmers in quality schemes for cotton or foodstuffs compatible with the internal market under Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty if it complies with the common assessment principles of these Guidelines, with the common provisions applicable to Chapter 3 of Part II of these Guidelines and with the following conditions.’;

(25) in point (688), the following second sentence is added:

‘If the initial participation in the quality scheme started before the application for support, the maximum period of five years shall be reduced by the number of years, which have elapsed between that initial participation and the time of the application for support.’;

(26) point (709) is replaced by the following:

‘(709) Save where aid is provided in the form of financial instruments, direct costs under point (708)(d) must be limited to the eligible costs of investment aid, as specified in points (635) and (636).’;

(27) point (716) is replaced by the following:

‘(716) Aid may be granted to cover only the following costs:

(a) the administrative costs of setting up the mutual fund, spread over a maximum period of three years in a degressive manner;

(b) the initial capital stock of the mutual fund.’;

(28) point (717) is replaced by the following:

‘(717) Member States may limit the eligible costs by applying ceilings per fund.’;

(29) point (718) is replaced by the following:

‘(718) Aid must be limited to 70 % of the eligible costs.’.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration
(Case M.8838 — Kerry Group/Korys Investments/Proparent)
(Text with EEA relevance)
(2018/C 139/03)

On 13 April 2018, 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 ⁽¹⁾. 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 32018M8838. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration
(Case M.8330 — Maersk Line/HSDG)
(Text with EEA relevance)
(2018/C 139/04)

On 10 April 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) in conjunction with Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. 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 32017M8330. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

IV

*(Notices)*NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND
AGENCIES

COUNCIL

**Notice for the attention of certain persons subject to the restrictive measures provided for in
Council Decision 2010/413/CFSP and Council Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 concerning restrictive
measures against Iran**

(2018/C 139/05)

The following information is brought to the attention of IRGC Brigadier-General Javad DARVISH-VAND (no. 1), IRGC Brigadier-General Mohammad Reza NAQDI (no. 8), Mr. Rostam QASEMI (no. 10) and IRGC Brigadier-General Amir Ali Haji ZADEH (no. 19), persons appearing in the Annex II to Council Decision 2010/413/CFSP ⁽¹⁾ and in Annex IX to Council Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 ⁽²⁾ concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Iran.

The Council intends to maintain the restrictive measures against the above-mentioned persons with new statements of reasons. Those persons are hereby informed that they may submit a request to the Council to obtain the intended statements of reasons for their designation, before 27 April 2018, to the following address:

Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
DG C 1C
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Email: sanctions@consilium.europa.eu

Any observations received before 11 May 2018 will be taken into account for the purpose of the Council's periodic review.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 195, 27.7.2010, p. 39.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 88, 24.3.2012, p. 1.

Notice for the attention of the persons subject to the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/849, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/611, and in Regulation (EU) 2017/1509, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/602 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

(2018/C 139/06)

The following information is brought to the attention of the persons that appear in Annex II to Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/611 ⁽²⁾ and in Annex XVI to Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 ⁽³⁾, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/602 ⁽⁴⁾ concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Council of the European Union has decided that the persons that appear in the above-mentioned Annexes should be included in the list of persons and entities subject to the restrictive measures provided for in Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 and Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The grounds for the listing of the persons concerned appear in the relevant entries in those Annexes.

The attention of the persons concerned is drawn to the possibility of making an application to the competent authorities of the relevant Member State(s) as indicated on the websites in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in order to obtain an authorisation to use frozen funds for basic needs or specific payments (cf. Article 35 of the Regulation).

The persons concerned may submit a request to the Council, together with supporting documentation, that the decision to include them on the above-mentioned lists should be reconsidered, before 18 May 2018, to the following address:

Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
DG C 1C
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Email: sanctions@consilium.europa.eu

Any observations received will be taken into account for the purpose of the Council's periodic review, in accordance with Article 36(2) of Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 and Article 34(7) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1509.

The attention of the persons concerned is also drawn to the possibility of challenging the Council's decision before the General Court of the European Union, in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 275, second paragraph, and Article 263, fourth and sixth paragraphs, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 141, 28.5.2016, p. 79.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 101, 20.4.2018, p. 70.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 224, 31.8.2017, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 101, 20.4.2018, p. 16.

Notice for the attention of the data subjects to whom the restrictive measures provided for in Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea apply

(2018/C 139/07)

The attention of data subjects is drawn to the following information in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾:

The legal basis for this processing operation is Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 ⁽²⁾.

The controller of this processing operation is the Council of the European Union represented by the Director-General of DG C (Foreign Affairs, Enlargement, Civil Protection) of the General Secretariat of the Council and the department entrusted with the processing operation is the Unit 1C of DG C that can be contacted at:

Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
DG C 1C
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Email: sanctions@consilium.europa.eu

The purpose of the processing operation is the establishment and updating of the list of persons subject to restrictive measures in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1509.

The data subjects are the natural persons who fulfil the listing criteria as laid down in that Regulation.

The personal data collected includes data necessary for the correct identification of the person concerned, the Statement of Reasons and any other data related thereto.

The personal data collected may be shared as necessary with the European External Action Service and the Commission.

Without prejudice to restrictions provided for in Article 20(1)(a) and (d) of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001, requests for access, as well as requests for rectification or objection will be answered in accordance with Section 5 of Council Decision 2004/644/EC ⁽³⁾.

Personal data will be retained for 5 years from the moment the data subject has been removed from the list of persons subject to the asset freeze or the validity of the measure has expired, or for the duration of court proceedings in the event they had been started.

Data subjects may have recourse to the European Data Protection Supervisor in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 224, 31.8.2017, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 296, 21.9.2004, p. 16.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

19 April 2018

(2018/C 139/08)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,2382	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5606
JPY	Japanese yen	132,88	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,7182
DKK	Danish krone	7,4478	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,6938
GBP	Pound sterling	0,86975	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,6208
SEK	Swedish krona	10,3778	KRW	South Korean won	1 314,38
CHF	Swiss franc	1,1976	ZAR	South African rand	14,7813
ISK	Iceland króna	123,30	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	7,7717
NOK	Norwegian krone	9,5825	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,4120
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	17 070,75
CZK	Czech koruna	25,327	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,8085
HUF	Hungarian forint	310,37	PHP	Philippine peso	64,432
PLN	Polish zloty	4,1664	RUB	Russian rouble	75,2875
RON	Romanian leu	4,6570	THB	Thai baht	38,644
TRY	Turkish lira	4,9838	BRL	Brazilian real	4,1925
AUD	Australian dollar	1,5892	MXN	Mexican peso	22,4668
			INR	Indian rupee	81,4580

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

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

Information to be provided pursuant to Article 5(2)

Establishment of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

(Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 (OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 19))

(2018/C 139/09)

I.1) Name, address and contact point:

Registered name: Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial do Rio Minho

Registered office: Av. Miguel Dantas, n° 69, 4930-6787 Valença, Portugal

Contact point: José Maria Costa, president of the Intermunicipal Council

Internet address of the Grouping:

I.2) Duration of the Grouping:

Duration of the Grouping: 24 February 2038

Date of registration: 24 February 2018

Date of publication:

II. OBJECTIVES

The Rio Minho EGTC aims to facilitate and promote territorial cooperation between its members, through territorial cooperation activities, including all activities which – in accordance with its competences and applicable EU, Portuguese and Spanish law – are delegated or subdelegated to it by national or European bodies, in order to implement programmes or projects that are co-financed mainly by the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund. With a view to contributing to development and strengthening local economic and social cohesion, the Rio Minho EGTC's duties consist of defining common ground and promoting territorial cooperation in the area, increasing institutional cohesion in the area, promoting cross-border cultural and natural heritage, promoting the area covered by the Rio Minho EGTC externally in order to develop the potential of local resources, and establishing and consolidating the cross-border Rio Minho tourist brand and other brands at national and international level. The Rio Minho EGTC's tasks also include executing and managing contracts and agreements that allow it to benefit from financial instruments adopted or planned by the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic – preferably combined with European funding –, managing facilities and operating services of general interest with a cross-border dimension, promoting and developing studies, plans, programmes and different types of relations between the associated public bodies.

III. ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON NAME OF THE GROUPING

Name in English:

Name in French:

IV. MEMBERSHIP

IV.1) Total number of members in the grouping: 2

IV.2) Nationalities of the members of the grouping: Spanish and Portuguese

IV.3) Member information ⁽¹⁾

Official name: Comunidade Intermunicipal do Alto Minho

Postal address: Rua Bernardo Abrunhosa, n.º 105, 4900-309 Viana do Castelo, Portugal

Internet address: www.cim-altominho.pt

Type of member: Local authority association

⁽¹⁾ Please add for each member.

Official name: Diputación Provincial de Pontevedra

Postal address: Avenida de Montero Rios s/n, 36071 Pontevedra, España

Internet address: www.depo.es

Type of member: Local authority

V

(Announcements)

OTHER ACTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Publication of an application pursuant to Article 50(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2018/C 139/10)

This publication confers the right to oppose the application pursuant to Article 51 of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

'RUCAVAS BALTAIS SVIESTS'

EU No: PGI-LV-02170 – 18.3.2016

PDO () PGI (X)

1. Name(s)

'Rucavas baltais sviests'

2. Member State or Third Country

Latvia

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff

3.1. Product type

Class 1.5 Oils and fats (butter, margarine, oil, etc.)

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

The product 'Rucavas baltais sviests' is a butter which is half fat and has a uniform, soft and elastic consistency.

Physical and chemical characteristics:

Taste of the product: slightly acidic and light, with the flavour and aroma of freshly churned butter.

Aroma: clean, typical aroma of milk fats, without extraneous aromas or flavours.

Colour: from white to yellow, some unevenness in the colour may be observed owing to uneven distribution of plasma droplets.

Texture: soft, fluffy, with visible droplets of plasma of various sizes that come out if the product is pressed mechanically.

Fat content: 39-41 %

Expiry date: three days after the preparation date.

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

No rules have been laid down with regard to the feed used, or its quality.

The following raw materials are used: well-chilled thick cream (fat content 35-40 % minimum), curdled milk or milk, and salt. Cream and curdled skimmed milk, processed from milk, or milk must be used in the production of 'Rucavas baltais sviests'.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

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

All the steps in production (milk production, cooling and separation, cream production and butter-making) 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

Traditionally, white butter was eaten immediately after churning — with boiled potatoes or spread on rye bread. Only then is the butter of the required consistency, elastic and spongy. When putting the butter up for sale, it is packaged straight away into little boxes and wrapped in foil (to preserve the temperature and characteristics of the butter just after it is ready, and to ensure the product's consistent quality and organoleptic properties).

To preserve the quality and organoleptic properties of the butter, it needs to be packaged straight after preparation and in the specific geographical area. Only then can it be stored unchanged for three days.

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

The name 'Rucavas baltais sviests' is used to label the butter intended for sale, so when the butter is sold wholesale or in retail trade, it should be visible on or near the product's packaging.

4. Concise definition of the geographical area

Rucava municipality is located in south-western Kurzeme, Latvia. It shares borders with the municipalities of Nīca, Grobiņa and Priekule, and also with the districts of Skoda and Klaipeđa in Klaipeđa county, Lithuania.

5. Link with the geographical area

The product's reputation forms the basis of its connection with the geographical area. Its reputation is based on long-standing historical traditions and special methods of preparation.

The production method has not changed since the end of the 19th century, and the entire manufacturing process is still done by hand, mixing being done in a bowl with a wooden spoon. It is precisely the fact that the buttermilk is reincorporated into the butter whilst it is heated and curdled milk or plain milk are mixed into it, which gives the product its specific taste and quality.

'Rucavas baltais sviests' has been produced in households since the end of the 19th century. The recipes have been passed on from one generation to the next. Boiled potatoes and white butter have been the cheapest and occasionally even the main source of food since ancient times, as each household had a cow and therefore also milk. Even today, nearly every household makes its own 'Rucavas baltais sviests'. Previously, the production of white butter was of major importance to the region, and this is still the case today, as agriculture and livestock farming are still the mainstays of the economy and production and consumption of dairy products is particularly significant in Rucava.

In her study of traditional Latvian dairy-farming (*Latviešu tradicionālā piensaimniecība*), ethnographer *Dr habil. hist.* Linda Dumpa recognises that 'white butter' was prepared in a particular fashion only in the area around Rucava ('In Kurzeme, particularly its south-western part'): 'The warmed cream was mixed slowly in a bowl with a spoon or even two spoons. Sometimes, while making butter, the bowl was placed in a larger vessel filled with warm water'; 'lastly, curdled milk was poured and stirred in.' 'White butter is not specifically produced elsewhere in Latvia. It sometimes came about by accident, when insufficiently cooled cream was whipped in warm weather.' However, in Rucava, this product has always had a particular significance and, together with rye bread, was served as a great local delicacy when welcoming State dignitaries and other distinguished guests. For instance, while on a tour of regional army camps in October 1935, President Alberts Kviesis, Prime Minister Dr Kārlis Ulmanis, Deputy Prime Minister Marģers Skujenieks, Minister for War Jānis Balodis, Minister for Agriculture Jānis Birznieks and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, General Krišjānis Berķis, made a stop at the camp in Kurzeme where, at the entry to the camp, they were presented with 'a loaf of rye bread and a wooden tub containing white Kurzeme butter' ('Zemnieku veltes vadoņiem') ('Fruits of the land for our leaders'] (*Rīts*, No 282-a, 1935).

At the Rucava Centre for Traditional Culture, established in 2004, women taking part in events in the annual cycle of traditions and in various cultural education programmes, such as 'Rucava banquet' and 'Traditional supper', demonstrate their skills in preparing 'Rucavas baltais sviests' and offer it for tasting.

Evidence of the reputation of the product also comes in the form of publications in regional newspapers, tourist brochures, videos and leaflets, including the promotional leaflet for Zvanītāji ethnographic house in Rucava (2005). According to comments made in the Zvanītāji visitor book from 2006 onwards, 'Rucavas baltais sviests' is for some a taste from childhood, for others a discovery or experience associated with Rucava Municipality which they were not expecting.

The reputation of 'Rucavas baltais sviests' can be judged from its being a regular feature at exhibitions, celebrations and festivals, the recognition it has received, the articles written about it in the press and the information disseminated about it in the mass media: 'Baltais sviests tiešām ir gards!' ('White butter certainly is delicious!') (*Padomnieks*' supplement to *Kursas laiks*', No 30 (50)); 'Kurzemnieku maltīte' ('The cuisine of the Courlanders') (*Praktiskais latvietis*', 11 August 2008); 'Tradicionālās gudrības Kurzemes sievu virtuvē' ('Traditional wisdom in the cuisine of the womenfolk of Kurzeme') (*Kultūras pulss*' supplement to *Kurzemes vārds*', 22 January 2008); 'Māca putru vārit gultā' ('Teaching how to make porridge in bed') (*Kursas laiks*', 16 February 2009); 'Īsts un patiess!' ('Real and genuine!') (*OK!*, No 44, 18 July 2014); 'Baltais sviests ar skunstīgo jušanu no Rucavas' ('White butter from Rucava with a sophisticated feel about it') (6 September 2014, internet portal <http://apollo.tvnet.lv/>); 'Baltais sviests jeb leitīš' ('White or Lithuanian butter') (12 February 2011, internet portal <http://apollo.tvnet.lv/>).

'Rucavas baltais sviests' is an integral part of the cultural and culinary heritage of Rucava. 'Rucavas baltais sviests' adorns every festive table in Rucava, and usually guests are also invited to taste the butter, thereby being introduced to the traditions and 'flavour' of Rucava.

The association 'Rucavas tradīciju klubs' (Rucava Traditions Club) and the tradition keepers' collective 'Rucavas sievas' (Women of Rucava), which conduct their activities in the Zvanītāji House of Traditions, raise awareness of 'Rucavas baltais sviests' through the 'Rucava banquet', a programme showcasing cultural traditions to tourists. As part of this banquet, guests are given the opportunity to sample a variety of dishes from Rucava, including 'Rucavas baltais sviests'. The number of participants in the programme at Zvanītāji increased between 2006 and 2015 (including guests from Sweden, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Belarus, Estonian, Ukraine, the UK, Russia, Japan, Iceland, the Netherlands, Finland and Lithuania). The Zvanītāji guestbook contains many laudatory comments, referring to both the pleasant hospitality and the delicious Rucava dishes, including 'Rucavas baltais sviests', the superb taste characteristics of which the guests are able to sample both with boiled potatoes and with home-baked rye bread.

'Rucavas baltais sviests' has represented Rucava – as well as Kurzeme and Latvia – and garnered accolades at the following larger events: on Rucava Day at the Latvian Ethnographic Open-Air Museum in Riga (2005); on St Anne's Day at the 'Vitolnieki' homestead in Pape (2007-2016); as part of the photographic happening 'One Day in Latvia' (at the Zvanītāji ethnographic house in Rucava in 2007); at an event showcasing Latvian culture held at the Latvian Ethnographic Open-Air Museum as part of the NATO Summit in August 2008; on Rucava Day at Liepāja Pedagogical Academy during the Letonica Congress in 2008; on European Heritage Day at 'Mikjāņi' homestead in the Curonian Kings village in Pape (9 September 2011); at the St George's Day festival in Palanga (26 April 2013); and on Baltic [Latvian and Lithuanian] Unity Day in Rucava (13 September 2014).

The 'Women of Rucava' tradition keepers' collective organises seminars and master-classes on how to prepare 'Rucavas baltais sviests', demonstrates the skill of preparing the white butter and organizes tastings (at which the butter can be bought), at annual markets and at festivals in Riga, Liepāja and elsewhere. The art of preparing 'Rucavas baltais sviests' has been demonstrated for the newspaper *Kurzemes laiks* (2002); the magazine *Ievas māja* (2 May 2007); the newspaper *Kurzemes vārds* (2008); the magazine *Praktiskais latvietis* (2008); during the programme 'Panorāma', broadcast on Latvia TV channel LTV1 (2008); during the programme 'TE — Latvijas jaunatklāšanas raidījums' ('HERE — rediscovering Latvia'), broadcast on Latvia TV channel LTV7 (2012); during a live broadcast of the radio programme 'Nedēļas nogale' ('Weekend'] from 'Zvanītāji' (11 October 2014); and during the regional Aizpute TV broadcast 'Rucavniece Mirdza Ārenta' ('Mirdza Ārenta from Rucava').

Reference to publication of the specification

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

<http://www.zm.gov.lv/partikas-un-veterinarais-dienests/statiskas-lapas/partikas-uzraudziba/lauksaimniecibas-un-partikas-produktu-norazu-registracija?nid=2247>

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