

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000659/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(12 February 2025)**

Subject: Delay in PGI certification for ‘Crete’ olive oil

Olive oil is the most emblematic product of Crete and is of great financial value to the island. Nevertheless, the certification and confirmation of Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status has been pending with the European Commission since June 2021.

It is widely known that granting PGI status to a European product contributes to the creation of new jobs and an increase in agricultural income. However, in the case of ‘Crete’ olive oil, this process has been significantly delayed, which is particularly detrimental to the product and to all those directly involved in its production, distribution, sale and consumption. Four years have passed since the initial submission of the application, with no results so far, while in cases of corresponding PGI olive oil products from other Member States the process is much shorter.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission agree that the delay in granting PGI status to ‘Crete’ olive oil undermines its commercial prospects?
2. Why has the process not been expedited?
3. When is the submission of the PGI file for ‘Crete’ olive oil for final approval planned to take place?

Submitted: 12.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(21 March 2025)**

The Commission received an application for the registration of the name ‘Κρήτη/Kriti’ as protected designation of origin (PGI) on 28 July 2021.

Each new application for registration is subject to examination by the Commission as foreseen in the applicable legislation, in this case Regulation (EU) 1151/2012 ⁽¹⁾.

The process has no impact on the capacity of producers to continue marketing their product. In addition, Member States have the possibility to grant transitional national protection to a name while the registration is pending at Union level.

The examination at Union level involves exchanges between the Commission and the competent authorities in Greece so that the application meets the necessary legal requirements and is ready for publication for opposition.

The Commission operates under the legally prescribed deadlines, and the competent authorities of the Member State submit a revised application according to their own timeline as the Commission has no legal means to impose an expedited process.

If the examination is successfully concluded, the Commission will publish the name ‘Κρήτη/Kriti’ for opposition in the Official Journal of the European Union.

If no opposition is received within three months from the publication, the Commission will proceed with registration of the name.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/1151/oj/eng>