

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002591/25
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(26 June 2025)

Subject: Dispute between Türkiye and Germany on Traditional Specialities Guaranteed status for döner

In April 2024, Türkiye submitted an application to the Commission for döner to be granted Traditional Specialities Guaranteed status (TSG). If this status were to be granted, kebab would have to be prepared and served following a strictly defined Turkish recipe, among other things requiring specific marinated meats to be used.

Germany, where Turkish migrants popularised döner kebab in the 1970s, opposed the request, arguing that the dish has become integral to German culinary culture and can be found in a range of forms that reflect the country's own diversity. The German method of preparing döner kebab has gained widespread popularity across Europe, especially in Poland where research shows that the kebab industry is worth over PLN 2.5 billion, with Poles consuming up to 5 million kebabs every day. Kebabs are now served in a variety of ways, including vegetarian versions.

The Commission gave the two parties six months to reach a compromise. However, no such understanding was reached and the Commission committed to making a decision itself as to whether or not döner kebab would be granted TSG status.

1. Why has the Commission still not made a final decision in this case and when will it do so?
2. If TSG status is granted to döner kebabs, will it really become obligatory to follow one specific recipe across the EU and, if so, will regional variations of the dish be recognised as their own specialities?
3. What action will the Commission take if Member States object to the decision to grant TSG status?

Submitted: 26.6.2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(6 August 2025)

1. Following the publication in the Official Journal of the Union of the application for registration of 'Döner' as Traditional Specialty Guaranteed (TSG) the Commission received many oppositions. Therefore, the procedure was longer than usual. At the end of the opposition procedure the applicant and the opponents did not reach an agreement. The Commission has now to decide on the registration, in the light of all the elements that have been submitted by the applicant and by the opponents.
 2. The application concerns the name 'Döner'. If 'Döner' is registered as TSG that name will have to be used within the EU only with reference to a product that complies with the product specification of 'Döner' TSG.
 3. As mentioned in (1), many Member States opposed to registration of 'Döner' as a TSG. The opposition procedure was concluded without an agreement. The Commission has now to decide on the registration, in the light of all the elements that have been submitted by the applicant and by the opponents.
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