

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001453/26  
to the Commission  
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)  
(9 April 2026)**

*Subject:* PDO feta undermined through non-EU trade agreements tolerated by the EU

‘Feta’ has been registered as a PDO in the EU since 2002. The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that Member States must prevent the use of the name ‘feta’ even for exports to non-EU countries (C-159/20).

At the same time, the US systematically promotes, through trade agreements (e.g. with Indonesia, Argentina or Bangladesh), ‘common name’ clauses that recognise ‘feta’ as a ‘generic term’, directly undermining the European PDO system and creating unfair competition to the detriment of Greek producers, cooperatives and consumers.

Given this dual pressure, the Commission’s inaction amounts to the political acceptance of the downgrading of European Geographical Indications.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. In which non-EU countries, with which the EU negotiates or has made agreements, has legally binding protection for the PDO ‘feta’ been secured, and what is the timeline for its entry into force and implementation in each country?
2. How does it assess the compatibility or otherwise of such ‘common name’ clauses with commitments vis-à-vis the EU, and what specific measures will it take and by what deadline?
3. Will it commit to ensuring that the full protection of the ‘feta’ PDO constitutes a non-negotiable ‘red line’ in all future agreements?

Submitted: 9.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission  
(8 June 2026)**

The protection of EU geographical indications (GIs) for agri-food products in the markets of third countries has been — and remains — a clear priority of the EU trade agenda.

The Commission is actively working towards strengthening the protection and enforcement of GI rights both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

To date the EU has secured protection for the GI ‘Feta’ in 24 trade agreements <sup>(1)</sup>, including those with New Zealand, Canada, Chile, China, Mercosur or the Republic of Korea.

The Commission has also recently completed negotiations on the protection of ‘Feta’ with countries such as Indonesia and Australia.

The timing of the entry into force of these agreements will depend on the procedures for signature and conclusion. The Commission is looking into ways to streamline procedural steps to support an expeditious entry into force of these bilateral trade agreements.

The Commission expects all trading partners to respect their international obligations and is carefully analysing international developments and negotiations by third countries that may impact the protection of EU GIs. Its actions are — and will continue to be — adapted to the specific contexts.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Protection granted in the agreements, full list available through the GI-view database:  
<https://www.tmdn.org/giview/gi/EUGI00000013179>.