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E-003007/2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2026)

The registration and protection of geographical indications (GIs) and traditional specialties guaranteed (TSG) are governed by Regulation (EU) 2024/1143¹, which lays down distinct conditions and procedures for each scheme. The Commission applies those rules in a manner that preserves the integrity of each scheme and the protection of registered names. It examines each application carefully, including possible conflicts with earlier rights and compliance with the relevant rules.

TSG applications are examined taking into account the protection of registered Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs) and Protected Designations of Origin (PDOs), as well as any pending PGI or PDO applications, in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

The application to register ‘Fleur de sel/Flor de sal/Solni cvet’ as a TSG was published in the Official Journal of the European Union in January 2026. That publication did not constitute registration but opened the opposition procedure, allowing interested parties to submit an opposition under the applicable rules. The Commission is examining the application under the relevant legal framework.

The Commission cannot unilaterally reclassify a TSG application as a PGI application. The two schemes are legally distinct and subject to different requirements and procedures. It is for the applicant to decide under which scheme an application is submitted.

Any application to register a name such as ‘Guinean Fleur de Sel’ as a PGI would need to be submitted separately and would have to demonstrate compliance with Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, including the required link between a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the product and the defined geographical area.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialties guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products.