

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**TOWARDS A NEW EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL MODEL****Will we be able to defend our Origin Labelled Products at the next WTO negotiations?**

Le Mans, France, 1st December 2001.

The European Union tries to preserve and to increase in value its Origin Labelled Products and its biodiversity (varieties, species, process, products, ...), by upholding them at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Concerted Action research "DOLPHINS" (Origin Labelled Products: Humanity, Innovation and Sustainability) is a way to reach it.

Full details on the web site <http://www.origin-food.org>

This free web site offers three European databases, detailing our researchers' work on PDO, PG² and non-certified regional products based on codes of practices.

The first European research network on Origin Labelled Products

The European Union set up the DOLPHINS action³ to share and research information about agriculture's and agro-food's Origin Labelled Products. The program started in December 2000 and will end in December 2003. Nine countries are taking part: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United-Kingdom. More than 50 researchers from 17 Research Institutes are involved.

The research network implements and disseminates instruments in order to meet the needs of citizens, policy-makers, researchers, firms and all other operators involved in Origin Labelled Products.

A multifaceted perspective of Origin Labelled Products

The first step of the action consists of examining the legal protections of European products, comparing them, and analysing the implications for marketing, rural development and consumers. This work allows for the identification of current legal, economical and cultural difficulties, as well as anticipation of future developments. The second step regards evaluation of public policies (their typology, their effects at different levels, and the identification of innovations at local level to strengthen marketing and production systems). The objective is to provide relevant recommendations for all the actors concerned, in particular at the European Union level, in prospect of the WTO international trade negotiations, in December 2003.

A wide dissemination of the work

Today we open the web site: <http://www.origin-food.org>, which presents the DOLPHINS action's program, its partners and the results of their work. The web site offers, freely, access to 3 databases on Origin Labelled Products: Publications (with a research module), Research Institutes and current research Projects. Included are many links to the web sites of Agriculture ministries, local, national and international organizations, as well as to the web site of the PDO and PGI products.

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¹ INRA: National Institute for Agronomic Research, France, <http://www.inra.fr>

UREQUA: Research Unit for the Economics of Qualification Processes in Agro-food

² Regulation EEC No 2081/92 - PDO : Protected Designation of Origin – PGI: Protected Geographical Indication

³ QLK-2000-00593 financed by the fifth framework of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities: 1998-2002. Presentation of the project <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/quality-of-life/ka5/en/00593.html>