



REPORT FROM THE 7TH MEETING OF KOREA-EU WG ON GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

On Wednesday 6 November 2019, the 7th meeting of the Korea-EU Working Group on Geographical Indications (GIs) took place in Seoul. The discussions were held in a constructive and friendly atmosphere, with both sides open to consider various inquiries. Both parties are committed to ensure that the FTA is effectively implemented and that the procedure of the addition of GIs from both sides to the Annexes of the FTA can be completed swiftly and without further delay now that the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the GI Working Group have been signed on 17 September 2019.

Both sides discussed the issue of the addition of GIs in line with the RoP and relevant procedures to add new GIs in Korea and the EU.

Parties gave a short overview on their respective GI systems, highlighting the similarities and differences. Discussions also covered the procedure of the addition of GI names such as the trademark/earlier rights monitoring, examination procedure, publication in the respective official journals, the opposition procedure and etc. Korea introduced the domestic regulation regarding the addition of GIs, ‘Regulations on Procedures for Oppositions to GIs Protected under Trade Agreements.’

From the EU side it has been confirmed that the 46 EU GI names shall be added to the list and all relevant documents on the EU names have been once again provided to the Korean authorities.

Both sides updated each other on the latest legislative and international developments related to quality policy, newly available databases as well as respective ongoing trade negotiations and recently signed agreements.

As concerns timeline, both sides are committed to reach a positive outcome and work expeditiously to avoid unjustified delays.