11/20/2026 Events

The 12th meeting of the **Geographical Indications Sub-Committee (GI Sub-Committee)**, established under Article 306 of the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, was held on November 19, via videoconference.

The meeting was organized by the European Union, represented by the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (DG AGRI). The meeting was chaired by Frank Bollen, Head of Unit AGRI G4 – "Neighbourhood Enlargement and Pre-Accession Assistance", as Co-Chair of the Geographical Indications Sub-Committee from the European Union.

The Subcommittee was attended by representatives of the institutions responsible for implementing the Association Agreement in the field of geographical indications from both sides. The European Union delegation was composed of experts from the European Commission, through DG AGRI, and the Republic of Moldova delegation was led by Natalia Mogol, Deputy Director of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), as Co-Chair of the Sub-Committee. The national delegation also included representatives from AGEPI, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the European Integration Office, the Customs Service, the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization and the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union.

An important moment of the meeting was the **signing of** Decision No 1/2026 of the Geographical Indications Sub-Committee of 19 November 2026 [1], on the amendment of Annexes XXX-A, XXX-C and XXX-D to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part. By this Decision, 348 new geographical indications of the European Union will be protected on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, 48 names will be modified, and 7 names will be removed from the annexes to the Agreement. At the same time, four names from the Republic of Moldova will benefit from protection in the European Union: "Brînză de Popeasca", "Pistil de Valea Răutului", "Prune deosebite de Lalova" and "Zăbriceni".

In her speech, the Co-Chair of the Sub-Committee from the Republic of Moldova, Natalia Mogol, appreciated the good cooperation with the European side and the constructive spirit in which the meeting was prepared. She stressed that the protection of Moldovan names in the European Union represents an important recognition for local producers, who are ensured protection on the European market at no additional cost, and thanked the European Union for the support provided, in particular through the EU4IP Project, co-financed by the European Commission and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

During the meeting, the participants addressed recent developments in the field of geographical indications, the progress made in implementing the provisions of the Association Agreement, as well as issues related to the protection and promotion of geographical indications in the Republic of Moldova and the European Union.

The discussions also covered relevant legislative and institutional developments, the updating of the lists of protected geographical indications in the European Union and the Republic of Moldova, and the measures taken to enforce the rights in protected names. An important topic of the dialogue was the further alignment of the national normative framework with the European Union acquis in the field and the strengthening of the geographical indication protection mechanisms.

The legislative and institutional developments in the Republic of Moldova were presented by Simion Levițchi, Head of the Trademarks and Industrial Design Directorate of AGEPI. He informed about the adoption, on June 11, 2026, of Law No 107/2026 on Geographical Indications, Traditional Specialities Guaranteed and Optional Quality Terms, which aligns the national normative framework with the relevant regulations of the European Union and will enter into force on 2 April 2027. The activities for the development of subordinate normative acts, measures to strengthen the certification and control system for products with geographical indications, as well as national applications under

examination were also presented.

At the same time, the parties exchanged information on the priorities and activities planned for the coming period, reconfirming the importance of institutional cooperation and constant dialogue to ensure the effective implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Association Agreement.

The Geographical Indications Sub-Committee constitutes a platform for dialogue, coordination and exchange of experience between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, contributing to the development of the national geographical indication protection system, the promotion of value-added products and the approximation of national legislation and practices to European standards in the field.


[2]


[3]

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