

Minutes of 4th meeting of the Informal Working Group on Halloumi/Hellim
19 June 2023

The 4th meeting of the Informal Working Group (WG) on Halloumi/Hellim (HH) was held on 19 June 2023 in the Home 4 Cooperation in Nicosia. The meeting was chaired by the Commission services, with the presence of 6 out of 10 WG members (see Annex 1; 9 members had confirmed).

The WG adopted the draft agenda shared in advance of the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss recent developments and to have a more detailed insight into the Halloumi/Hellim PDO certification process directly from the delegated body, Bureau Veritas.

Members welcomed further progress in the Halloumi/Hellim PDO certification process in the Turkish Cypriot community, and have informed of bi-communal initiatives that took place in the past months.

Bureau Veritas presented the Halloumi/Hellim PDO certification process (as per PowerPoint Presentation in Annex 2). Members raised queries about specific aspects. The scope and methodology of checks was explained, taking into account the recent product specification changes and its present version in force.

It was concluded that the Halloumi/Hellim PDO scheme is progressing well in both communities and helps boost cooperation also between the communities. The benefits for the Turkish Cypriot community shall become tangible once all the preconditions for trading in the EU market are met. The quantities of small ruminants' milk were addressed as a pertaining challenge for both communities.

Members suggested that the Commission takes initiative in organising bi-communal events beyond the scope of the WG, related to different topics relevant for the Halloumi/Hellim PDO scheme implementation, as to support further the exchanges between the communities.

The proposal by the Commission to invite at the next meeting external experts to present possible strategies and Member States' good practice examples for increasing sheep and goats milk yields was welcomed.

It was announced that the next meeting would be held in late September or October 2023.

The minutes of the meeting will be posted on the DG REFORM website.

Annex 1: List of members participating in the fourth meeting of the Informal Working Group on Halloumi/Hellim:

- Andrea, Christo
- Andreou, Andreas
- Ergüven, Mustafa
- Öztürk, Kemal
- Papademas, Photis
- Pittas, Yiannos

Guest speakers:

- Maria Chachali, Bureau Veritas Hellas, Industry & Facilities General Manager
- Maria Dialyna, Bureau Veritas Hellas, Industry & Facilities, Senior Lead Auditor FSMS, QMS, SHE, SMETA, Food Products Leader

From the Commission:

- Björnsson Kjartan, DG REFORM – Chair of meeting
- Aubin Vincent, DG SANTE – Co-chair (participating online)
- Cianfoni Luca, DG AGRI – Co-chair (participating online)
- Stefan Simosas, DG REFORM
- Castello Corvillo Javier, DG REFORM
- Buza-Vidas Marina, DG REFORM

Annex 2: Bureau Veritas presentation on Halloumi/Hellim PDO certification process



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Shaping a World of Trust by ensuring responsible progress.



ΒΑΣΙΚΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ



€5.0
billion

REVENUE IN 2021



c.80,000
employees*



400,000
clients



~1,600
offices &
laboratories

IN 140 COUNTRIES





02

PDO HALLOUMI CERTIFICATION FOR THE WHOLE ISLAND OF CYPRUS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Scope of work:

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Cyprus has assigned to Bureau Veritas Hellas the PDO Halloumi/Hellim Certification inspections for the whole island of Cyprus as per the Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2021/591



PROJECT DESCRIPTION STEP BY STEP

- Declaration of interest/ Application submission
- Application Review: evaluation of all required documents and preparation of technical offer
- Technical offer acceptance
- Scheduling of the on site audit: planning the date and assign inspector for document review and on site audit



All steps described in the technical document "Audit & Certification Plan"



PROJECT DESCRIPTION ON SITE AUDIT

- Opening Meeting: Presentation of the control procedure
- Audit process based on the existing checklist:
 - ✓ **Procedures and records review** (i.e production records, traceability records, mass balance, suppliers management records, etc).
 - ✓ **Site Tour**: observation of production processes, interviews with personnel



All steps described in the technical document "Audit & Certification Plan"



PROJECT DESCRIPTION ON SITE AUDIT

- Closing Meeting: Presentation of the control process, discuss any finding and agree corrections and corrective action plan.
- Reporting of any findings, draft report.



All steps described in the technical document "Audit & Certification Plan"



PROJECT DESCRIPTION STEP BY STEP

- Final report submission: evaluation of any corrective actions and clearance of any findings
- Technical review of the audit package & Certification Decision



All steps described in the technical document "Audit & Certification Plan"



PROJECT DESCRIPTION STEP BY STEP

- Certificate (for cheese producers) or Attestation (for milk and feed producers) issuance and sending to the auditee
- Regular notification of the Competent Authority as per the provisions of the Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2021/591



All steps described in the technical document "Audit & Certification Plan"



PROJECT DESCRIPTION STEP BY STEP





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