



INFORMAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUP ON HALLOUMI/HELLIM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

- (1) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/591 of 12 April 2021 entering a name in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications ('Χαλλούμι' (Halloumi) 'Hellim' (PDO)) registered Halloumi/Hellim as a PDO for the island of Cyprus. Recital 40 to the Regulation states that "A bi-communal working group may be constituted in relation to 'Χαλλούμι' (Halloumi)/'Hellim' since experience has shown such groups play an important role."

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/586 of 12 April 2021 amending Decision 2007/330/EC lifting prohibitions on the movement of certain animal products on the island of Cyprus under Council Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 and laying down conditions for the movement of those products with regard to 'Χαλλούμι' (Halloumi)/'Hellim' (PDO) lifts the prohibition on trade in animal products across the Green Line in respect of Halloumi/Hellim once all the conditions in the Decision have been satisfied. Recital 13 states that "Pending the reunification of Cyprus, a Working Group may be established, with the assistance of the Commission, composed of equal numbers of representatives of the Greek Cypriot community and the Turkish Cypriot community, and chaired by a representative of the Commission to hold regular meetings to review the functioning of the inspection system for the product established by this Decision."

2. SUBJECT MATTER

The informal Commission working group on Halloumi/Hellim ('the group') is set up.

3. FUNCTIONS

The group shall bring about an exchange of information as well as the sharing of experience and good practices among stakeholders relating to their participation in the PDO scheme for Halloumi/Hellim and review the functioning of the inspection system for Halloumi/Hellim.

4. MEMBERSHIP

1. The group shall be composed of up to ten members. An equal number of members shall be drawn from the Greek Cypriot community and from the Turkish Cypriot

community. The Commission, as chair, shall not be considered to be a member of the group.

2. Members shall be individuals appointed to represent a common interest, such as representatives of Chambers of Commerce, representatives of farmers' organisations or representatives of dairies involved in the production of Halloumi/Hellim, representatives of relevant professional interests and representatives of civil society organisations.
3. Members appointed to represent a common interest shall not represent an individual stakeholder, but a policy orientation common to different stakeholders.
4. Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations, or who, in the opinion of the Commission, do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

5. SELECTION PROCESS

1. The selection of the group's members shall be carried out via a public call for applications, to be published on the dedicated website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/mission-statement-directorate-general-structural-reform-support/monitoring-green-line-regulation_en. The call for applications shall clearly outline the selection criteria, including the required expertise and the interests to be represented in relation to the work to be performed. The minimum deadline for applications shall be four weeks.
2. The members of the group shall be appointed by the Director-General of DG REFORM from applicants with competence in the areas referred to in point 3 and who have responded to the call for applications.
3. Members shall be appointed for two years. They shall remain in office until the end of their term of office. Their term of office may be renewed once without a Call for Applications.
4. DG REFORM shall establish a reserve list valid for four years of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint members' replacements. DG REFORM shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

6. CHAIR

The group shall be co-chaired by representatives of DG AGRI, DG REFORM and DG SANTE.

7. OPERATION

1. The group shall meet at the request of the co-chair.
2. Meetings of the group shall, in principle, be held at the Home for Co-operation, Cyprus, or virtually, depending on the circumstances.
3. DG REFORM shall provide secretarial services. Commission officials from DG AGRI, DG REFORM and DG SANTE shall attend meetings of the group.

4. In agreement with DG AGRI, DG REFORM and DG SANTE, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that its deliberations shall be public on a given subject matter.
5. Minutes on the discussion on each point on the agenda and on the conclusions reached by the group shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by DG REFORM under the responsibility of the Chair. DG REFORM shall send the minutes for information to the Competent Authority.
6. As far as possible, the group shall work by consensus.

8. INVITED EXPERTS

The Chair may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the group on an *ad hoc* basis.

9. OBSERVERS

1. Bodies appointed to exercise control tasks in relation to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/591 or Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/586 of 12 April 2021 may be granted an observer status by direct invitation.
2. Bodies appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
3. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the group and provide expertise. However, they shall not participate in the formulation of opinions of the group.

10. RULES OF PROCEDURE

On a proposal by and in agreement with the Chair, the group shall adopt its rules of procedure by simple majority of its members.

11. PROFESSIONAL SECRECY AND HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

The members of the group, as well as invited experts and observers, are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443¹ and 2015/444². Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

12. TRANSPARENCY

1. All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, shall be made available on the dedicated Commission website. In

¹ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

² Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

particular, DG REFORM shall publish the agenda and other relevant background documents in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be possible where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001³.

13. MEETING EXPENSES

1. Participants in the activities of the group shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.
2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the group shall not be reimbursed by the Commission.

Done in Brussels, on [date].

³ These exceptions are intended to protect public security, military affairs, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy and integrity of the individual, commercial interests, court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.