



**Council of European National
Top-Level Domain Registries**

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Geographical indications protection in the EU

Impact on ccTLDs

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Virtually everywhere

Geographical indications

GIs aim to protect products against **'bad faith' use & imitations:**

- Guarantee of originality to the customer
- All producers in the given geographical area have **collective rights** over the product
- EU maintained registers:

[eAmbrosia](#) / [GIview](#)



Reform in the EU

- [Proposal](#) for a Regulation on EU GIs for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products (30 March 2022)
- [Proposal](#) for a Regulation on GI protection for craft and industrial products (13 April 2022)



GI protection online

- GIs not considered as a valid IPR title by the UDRP policy
- EC: “the enforcement of IPR for GIs is weakened on the internet”
- EC: “the enforcement of IPR and use of GI names in domain names on the internet remains an issue”
- EC: “With the increasing digitalisation and online sales, the potential for fraud (e.g. in the form of misleading domain names) is[...] growing.”





Expansion of GI protection online

ccTLDs established in the EU shall recognise GIs as rights that may **prevent** a domain name from being registered or used in bad faith



Revocation of domain names

Persons with a legitimate interest can request the revocation/transfer of the domain name:

- If the conflicting domain name has been registered without rights or legitimate interest,
- following an appropriate alternative-dispute-resolution procedure or judicial procedure, or
- if it has been registered/is being used in bad faith



Domain information and alert system

EUIPO to establish a domain name information and alert system to inform GI applicants about the availability of the GI as a domain name, and provide them *on an optional basis* with information once an identical or similar domain name has been registered.



Some conclusions

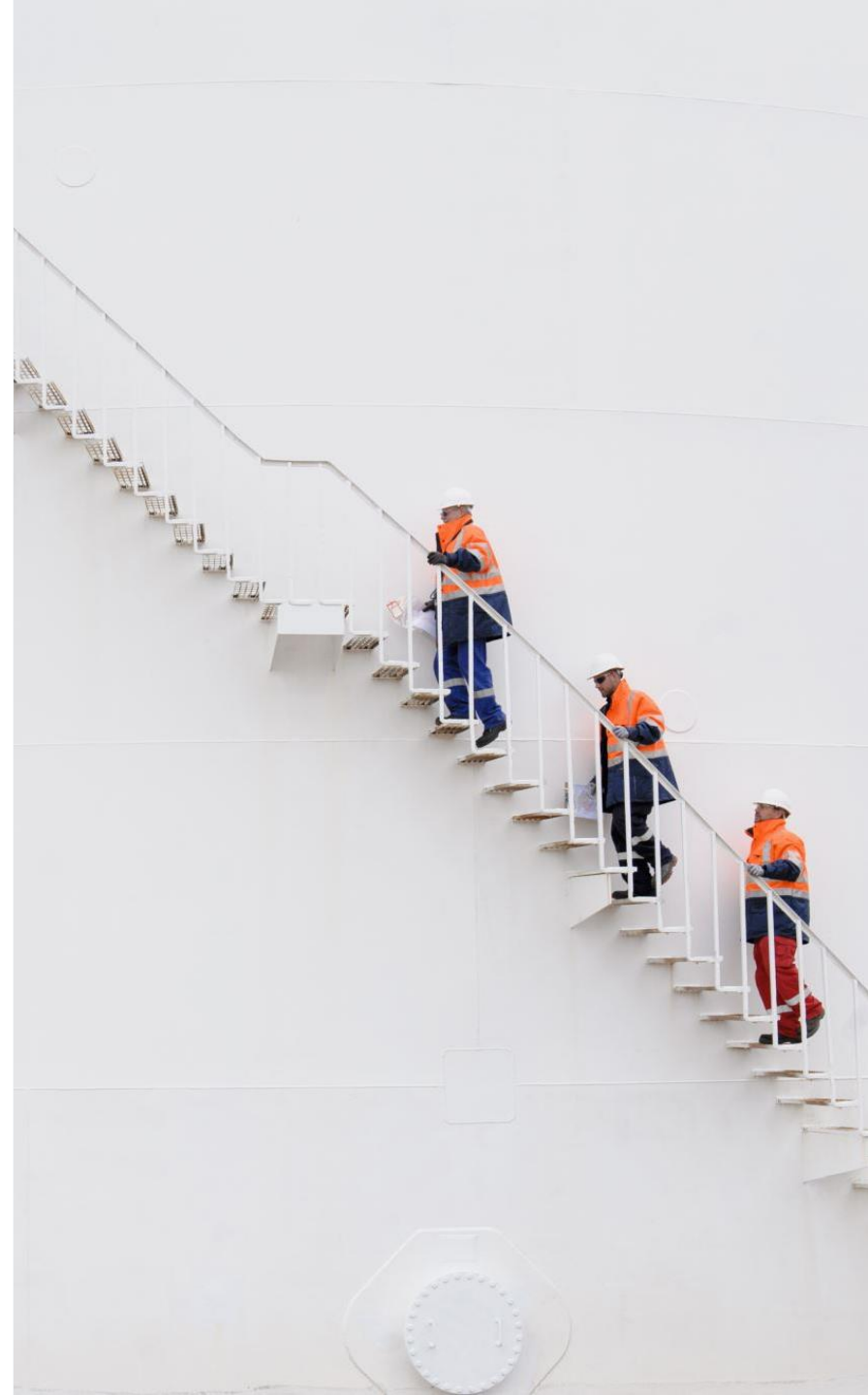
- Concerns only EU ccTLDs
- ccTLDs will be required to share data with EUIPO
- Establishment of revocation/transfer policies
- Potentially differing regimes for food, wine, spirits vs craft/industrial products vs other trademarks

Impact on ccTLDs:

- Conflict with existing ADRs?
- Conflict with existing lookup tools and services offered by registries & registrars
- Extension of territorial IPR to borderless online environment
- Unprecedented attention to GIs in domain name space

Existing GI protection within ccTLDs

- Many CENTR members include provisions in their T&C that prohibit the use of domains that infringe IPR
- A few CENTR members explicitly prohibit the use of domain names that infringe GIs
- Over the past couple of years, CENTR members have never or rarely encountered disputes related to GIs in domain names





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Thank you!

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