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In accordance with the provisions of Article 14.1 of the RM-EU Agreement on the Protection of Geographical Indications for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs, signed in Brussels on 26 June 2012, and following the performance of the internal ratification procedures by the Contracting Parties, this Agreement shall enter into force on 1 April 2013.

Moldovan Parliament ratified the Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union on the Protection of Geographical Indications of Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs on December 27, 2012. According to the said Agreement, the parties undertake to provide each other a high level of protection of geographical indications for foodstuffs, wines and spirits.

The Agreement provisions fall within the provisions of the future Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and will help building a strong partnership aimed at promoting and protecting quality products both for the benefit of agriculture and industry in the EU and the Republic Moldova.

In accordance with the Agreement provisions, the Republic of Moldova benefits from a transition period of 5 years from the date of entry into force thereof, in order to take additional measures to stop the illegal use of geographical indications, especially measures applicable at the border.

As a result, in the next period AGEPI, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and Customs Service, will develop an action plan on the implementation of the said Agreement.

The full text of the Agreement and the lists of geographical indications whose protection is to be provided can be found at the address: http://particip.gov.md/public/documente/130/ro_419_Acord-privind-indicatiile-geografice.pdf [1].

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