

**Question for written answer E-014725/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Marijana Petir (PPE)**

Subject:     Varaždinsko zelje cabbage

In response to Croatia's application for 'Varaždinsko zelje', a name denoting a Croatian autochthonous product, to be registered as a designation of origin, which was published in the Official Journal (C 223) on 8 July 2015, Slovenia lodged a notice of opposition on 7 October 2015 under Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012.

Varaždinsko zelje is a vegetable derived from Varaždin cabbage, an autochthonous conservation variety traditionally produced within the geographical area around the Croatian city of Varaždin. The variety in question has been known since the mid-20th century; it was added to Croatia's official register of ancient conservation varieties in 1994; since 21 July 2011 it has been recognised as a conservation variety in the Croatian variety register; and it was incorporated in the EU variety register when Croatia joined the Union. Slovenia, however, added new cabbage varieties to its variety register on 23 April 2012, under the names 'Varaždinsko 2' and 'Varaždinsko 3'.

The EU office responsible for protecting new varieties does not consider Varaždinsko 2 and Varaždinsko 3 to be appropriate names, as they suggest a link to a geographical area with which they have no direct connection and to that extent are confusing to consumers.

Did the Varaždinsko 2 and Varaždinsko 3 cabbage varieties exist in Slovenian official registers before 25 May 2000, and were those variety names entered in the EU variety register in accordance with the EU provisions in force at the time of registration?