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Spain Approved a Decree Governing Geographical Indication Groups Across Regions

The measure aligns national law with European Union standards and lets multiregional labels establish councils in every autonomous community they cover

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Spain’s Council of Ministers approved a royal decree on Tuesday, November 17, setting the legal framework for the recognition and operation of producer groups tied to geographical indications that cover more than one autonomous community.

The measure, announced by the government after the cabinet meeting, is intended to bring Spanish rules into line with the European Union framework for these designations. Geographical indications are quality labels used in the EU to identify products whose characteristics or reputation are linked to a specific place of origin.

Under the new rules, protected geographical indications that extend across several regions will be able to have regulatory councils based in all the autonomous communities included in the designation. The government said that structure is meant to make joint management easier and improve coordination among producers and regional authorities.

The royal decree also updates and consolidates earlier rules in an area that had been governed through a more fragmented regulatory system. According to the government, the new framework is designed to increase producer participation in defending and promoting geographical indications while also improving transparency and representation inside the bodies that manage them.

Among the powers highlighted by the government are the ability of these producer groups to carry out controls on production and marketing, protect product quality and authenticity, and support the promotion and market positioning of the goods covered by the designation. The decree is also meant to strengthen the role of producer organizations in the day-to-day governance of labels that operate across regional borders.

The reform could carry particular weight for the drinks industry. For wine, spirits and other beverage designations that span more than one autonomous community, the new framework could help determine which producer bodies are recognized to handle common management tasks and, potentially, sensitive matters such as product specifications, sustainability-related functions and requests linked to supply management.

The government said the measure should reinforce the broader food and agriculture sector by protecting products sold under recognized geographical indications and by supporting their economic value and reputation in domestic and foreign markets. Spain has a large number of protected names tied to local production, and several of them involve territories that do not fit within a single regional administration.

The decree also seeks to encourage closer cooperation between public administrations and the private sector so that these groups can operate more effectively. The government said that approach responds to European Union requirements and recommendations on how recognized producer organizations should function.