

Minutes of APPG on Geographically Protected Foods

Start of Meeting – 15:01

Election of Officers

Alicia Kearns MP and Ruth Edwards MP (with apologies) elected Co-Chairs. **Unanimously elected.**

Fay Jones MP (Conservative), Deidre Brock MP (Scottish National Party), Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru), and Lord McNicol (Labour), Lord Tyler (Liberal Democrat, with apologies) elected Vice-Chairs. **Unanimously elected.**

Also in Attendance: Alistair Carmichael MP, Trudy Harrison MP, John Stevenson MP, Baroness Ludford, Lord Maginnis of Drumglass.

Future Actions

1. The APPG noted that there is widespread agreement across both Houses of Parliament that geographical indicators are vitally important to our economies and that they need to be protected in legislation and in any future trade agreements.
2. There has been some concern that, despite the consultations conducted by DEFRA, the department has been quite vague about what format a new GI protection scheme will take. It is also unclear which departments will be responsible for protecting GIs in the event of any trade agreement.
3. There was broad agreement that there should be a call for evidence on this issue, with civil servants, business and academics.
4. APPG members also raised the point that any intervention on GI issues should be done before the trade bill is introduced, as well as intervening soon before DEFRA introduces the GI scheme before the end of the transition period.
5. For the above, there was unanimous agreement that a timeline needs to be established fairly soon. Alicia Kearns MP will follow up with the relevant ministers on this issue and report back as soon as possible.
6. Lord McNicol raised the need to commission an economic analysis along these lines, and the need to engage deeply with trade bodies and producers. Alicia's staff will prepare a full list of the producers, as well as relevant trade bodies. This will expand on the briefing provided today.
7. It was agreed that next steps will be to **establish timeline for the launch of GIs, do an economic analysis of the role of GIs in the UK economy, reach out to trade groups and producers, and circulate a proposed model for a call for evidence.**
8. There was unanimous agreement that there should be a launch event, perhaps to launch the report of the APPG, to be held in the Jubilee Room, that celebrates food from across the United Kingdom.
9. The APPG will also campaign, in a manner to be decided, for more geographically protected food to be sold in Parliament, as well as to work for improved distribution networks for GIs and to connect them to large distributors such as Sainsburys.

End of Meeting – 15:28.