



Department of Central Inspectorate for fraud repression and quality safeguarding of agrifood products

***“Conference on Food Fraud
A joint effort to ensure the safety and integrity of our food”***

Stefano Vaccari
Head of ICQRF

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A few words about us



The ICQRF is an Italian acronym which identifies the **Department of Central Inspectorate for fraud repression and quality safeguarding of agrifood products**

The complexity of this name reflects the wide range of responsibility in charge to the ICQRF that is the Law Enforcement Body of the MiPAAF (Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Foodstuff and Forestry Policies) responsible for preventing and repressing any breach of European and Italian laws relating to:

- agri-foodstuffs productions, (from farming to food processing industries as well as at their wholesale and retail stage);
- farm supply products (seeds, feed, agricultural chemicals, fertilizers and plant growth products).

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ICQRF

Carring out Official Controls according to (EC) Reg. No. 882/2004 (by means Inspections, Chemical Analyses and, if the case, working as Police under the coordination of a Public Prosecutor).

Imposing monetary or other sanctions as result of inspection or analyses findings

Authorizing private or public control bodies to the certification of foostuffs as PDO, PGI and Organic.

Supervising the activities of the aforementioned private or public control bodies.

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An overview on ICQRF Organisation

Head of of ICQRF

At **central level**, the Department consists of two **Directorates General**.

At **local level**, it has **10 decentralised inspection offices** and **19 local units**.

The ICQRF has also its own laboratories network, comprising **5 chemical routine laboratories** and a **central reference laboratory** responsible for research activity and for second instance analysis



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The Official Controls carry out by ICQRF (by means Inspections, Chemical Analyses and, if the case, working as Police under the coordination of a Public Prosecutor) are divided into two main groups:

a) Controls on requirements as to the nature and/or composition of agri-foodstuffs and farm supply products, mainly intended against

.....the adulterations, the sophistications, the counterfeiting and frauds.

b) Controls on requirements as to the regulated quality productions such as PDOs, PGIs, Organics, mainly intended against.....

- any direct or indirect commercial use of that protected name in so far as such use exploits the reputation of a designation of origin or a geographical indication.
- also any misuse, imitation or evocation, and so on.....

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ICQRF activity from January – to September 2014 **1**

Inspection activity

Inspection Activity	Controls (no.)	26.342
	Controlled Operators/Premises (no.)	19.381
	irregular (no.)	2.807
	irregular (%)	14,5
	Controlled products (no.)	39.783
	irregular (no.)	3.676
	irregular (%)	9,2
	Samples drawn (no.)	7.546

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ICQRF activity from January – to September 2014 2

Analytical Activity

Analytical Activity	Analysed Samples (no.)	6.767
	Irregular Samples (no.)	640
	Irregular Samples (%)	9,5

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ICQRF activity from January – to September 2014 3

Results

Results	Criminal Reports (no.)	217
	Administrative Notifications (no.)	3.339
	Seizures (no.)	429
	Seized Products (no.)	610
	Seizures Value (million euro)	26,5

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ICQRF activity from January – to September 2014 4

**Surveillance or supervision on activities of the
private or public control bodies**

Surveillance or supervision on activities of the private or public control bodies.	Surveillance Controls (no.)	2.068
	Control Bodies supervised (no.)	55
	<i>Control Bodies on PDO and PGI wines</i>	16
	<i>Control Bodies on PDO and PGI non wines</i>	23
	<i>Control Bodies on Organic farming products</i>	12
	<i>Control Bodies on meat labelling</i>	4

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**Some of the recent most relevant operations against
food-related fraud**

- **"VERTICAL BIO" (ORGANIC):** On February 2014, together with the Guardia di Finanza (GdF - the Italian revenue Police), ICQRF has dismantled an International criminal organization which had imported in Italy, from third countries (such as Moldova, Ukraine, India, etc.) cereals for the livestock sector and, in some cases, for human consumption (in particular, soy, corn, wheat and flax), falsely certified as "bio";
- **"FUENTE OLIVE OIL":** On April 2014, together with GdF, ICQRF conducted an important operation that discovered a fraud in commodity trading and recycling in the oil sector. **As results of carrying out 15 search warrants** at the major oil companies and factories operating on national and international levels and activities at the main Italian ports regarding controls of oil coming from abroad, we blocked the introduction in Italy of oils called "deodorized" raw oil products of poor quality subjected to treatments of industrial refining and therefore unusable for the obtaining of extra virgin olive oils;

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**Some of the most relevant operations against
food-related fraud**

- **ORGANIC FERTILIZERS ILLEGAL:** On May 2014, together with ARPAT Tuscany (Environmental Tuscan Agency) in the province of Pisa ICQRF **seized about 550 tons of organic fertilizer 'Waste of Wool'**. The investigations showed that the fertilizer in question was made only for a 34% of protein fibers of the wool and the remaining 64% by foreign non-protein fibers. It was a serious fraud against farmers who spend significant sums to use organic fertilizers, especially in Organic productions ;
- **"ALIUD PRO OLIO":** On July 2014, with GdF and Agenzia delle Dogane, ICQRF conducted an important operation that discovered a criminal organization operating on olive oil sector, which illegally labeled as "100% Italian organic extra virgin olive oil", products from Spain and/or without the organoleptic properties needed. As result, 16 operators have been arrested and 16 premises seized.

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- I. PROTECTING OF OUR PDOs AND PGI's IN ITALY AND IN THE EU BY MEANS OF SO-CALLED "EX OFFICIO PROTECTION";
- II. ESTABLISHING A CONTINUOUS AND EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH EBAY AND GOOGLE, TO PROMOTE AND TO PROTECT OUR PDOs AND PGIS IN THE CONTEXT OF E-COMMERCE;
- III. PROPOSING SPECIFIC DISCLAIMERS ON E-COMMERCE SELLING ON EXTRA UE OPERATORS.

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I. THE "EX OFFICIO PROTECTION" IN ITALY AND IN THE EU

EU in 2012 passed the Regulation No 1151/2012 aimed at improving and strengthening the protection of European PDOs and PGI



With this Regulation EU has deeply changed its view about foodstuffs and their protection:

From a merely
agricultural
products to.....

Products belong to the
European living cultural
and gastronomic heritage

ICQRF is the Italian ex Officio Authority (DM October 2013)

there is inside the ICQRF a specific "ex Officio UNIT"

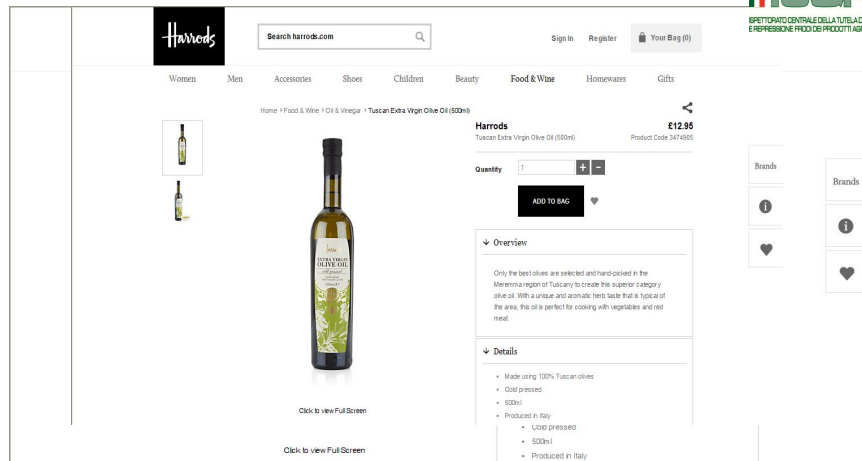
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2014 ICQRF enforcement in EU:

- "San Daniele ham" in UK;
- "Parmesan & Romano Kit cheese" in UK;
- "Tuscan Harrods" extra virgin olive oil in UK;
- "Fontina" cheese in Denmark;
- "Parmesan" cheese in UK, France, Netherland;
- "Balsamic Vinegar of Modena" in Poland;
- "Mortadela Bologna" in Spain;
- "Reggiano" cheese in Netherland;
- "Parmesan Râpé", "Parmesan", "Parmi", "Parmegiano Regg" e "Parmigiano Reggiano" in Belgium;
- Salsa "Asiago" as ingredient in "Subway" sandwiches in Germany;
- "Asiago Caesar" sold in UK, Ireland, Germany, Belgium.
- "Ligurian Taggiasca" extra virgin olive oil sold in UK;
- "Gorgonzola" cheese in Belgium;

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“ex Officio” Cases :
1. “Tuscan extra virgil olive oil” on website
www.harrods.com



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“Tuscan”
Extra-virgin olive oil with the brand “Harrods” bottled in UK.
 sold at the Harrods store



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2. “Gorgonzola frozen cubes”on website



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3. “Ligurian Taggiasca” extra virgin olive oil on website



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4. "Ocet Balsamiczny z Modeny" on website

www.dodomku.pl



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mipaaf
ministero delle
politiche agricole
alimentari e forestali

WHAT WE ARE DOING IN EU AND IN THE WORLD



II. ESTABLISHING A CONTINUOUS AND EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH EBAY AND GOOGLE

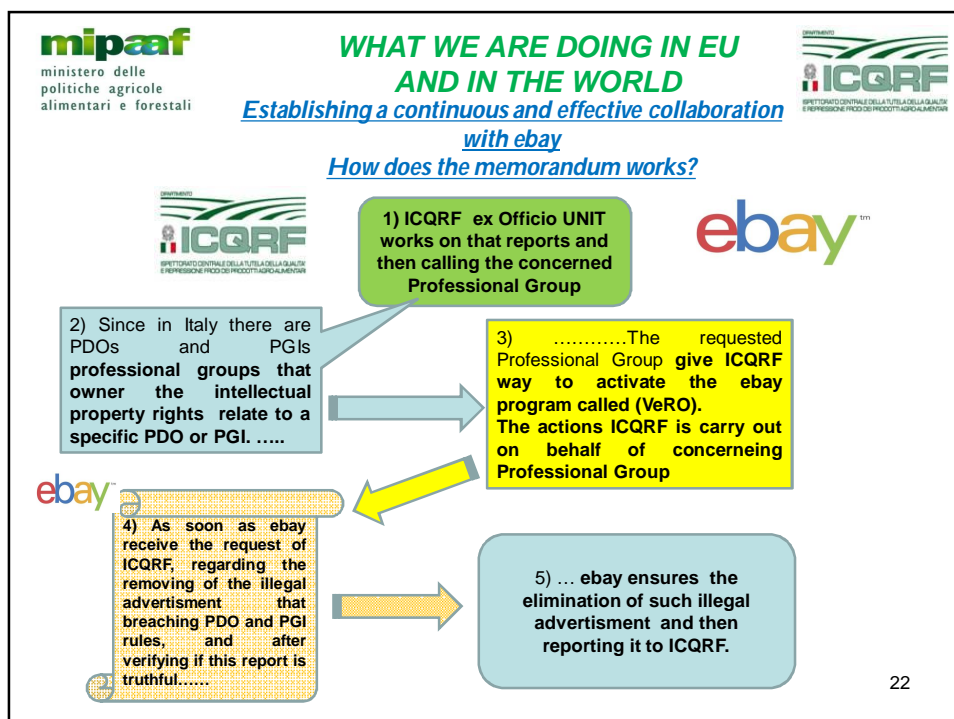
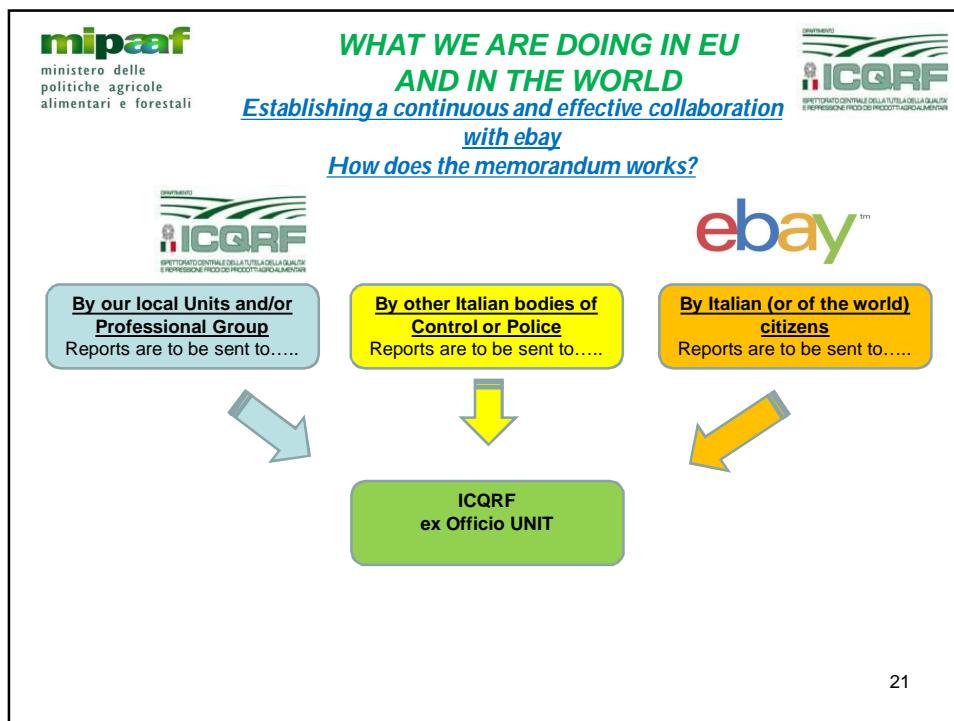


- On May 7th 2014 ICQRF and EBAY signed a Memorandum for the protection of GIs on the web through the Program Verified Rights Owner (VeRO) to enable owners of intellectual property rights (such as copyright, trademarks or patents) to report the advertisements infringing an intellectual property right;
- In 2013 Mipaaf and Google made the web Italian PDOs and PGIs Museum: a wonderful gallery of Italian foodstuffs and agricultural products to improve the knowledge (and the protection too) of these products:

Home page of MIPAAF web site www.politicheagricole.it



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Cases history on website ebay



- “Montepulciano d’Abruzzo”;
- “Prosecco”;
- “Winekit Chianti”;
- “Soave”;
- “Aceto Balsamico di Modena”;
- “Parmesan” – “Asiago” from USA to EU

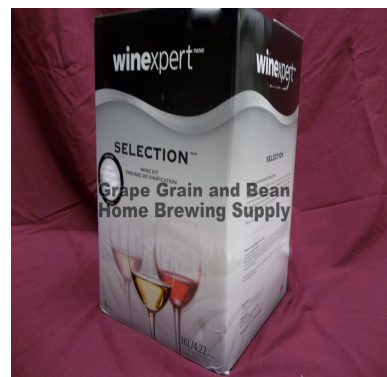
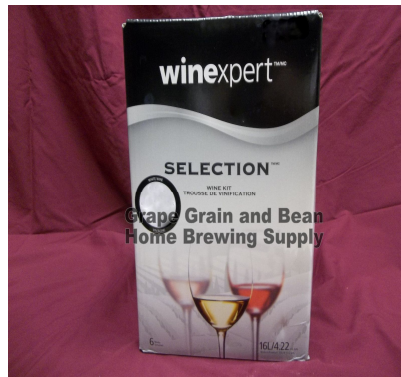
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1. “Vintners Reserve Sanigiovese, Sanigiovese Wine Kit, (formerly sold as Chianti)”



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2. “Winexpert Selection Sangiovese, Sangiovese Wine Kit, (formerly know as ***Chianti***)



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3. “CHEESE MAKING KIT – “CHEDDAR” COTTAGE RICOTTA “**GOUDA**” “**PARMESAN**” “**FETA**” COLBY & JACK”

Shipping to worldwide



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4. "500 Packets": 100% "**PARMESAN**" CHEESE shipping to worldwide



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PACKET



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5. “4C Homestyle Grated **“Parmesan”** Cheese shipping to worldwide



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6. Mama Francesca Premium Grated Cheese **“Parmesan”** with **“Asiago”** & **“Romano”** shipping to worldwide



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7. "Aceto Balsamico di Modena "Bianco"



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CONCLUSIONS

- We are trying to enforce more and more our mission: it's not an easy task!
- Surely, a great deal more can be done, too, in relation to the international level but we think for the time being **we are working properly**;
- **There are high hopes that TTIP will improve the rules of trading in order to PDO's and PGI's against counterfeiters and evocations.**

However that may be, as the European Commission stated on its draft report of an audit carried out in Italy from 16 to 27 June 2014, in order to evaluate the control systems related to (PDO), (PGI) for agricultural products and foodstuffs:

"- Overall, a good system is in place for the official controls of PDO/PGI/TSG registered names in Italy.

- Official controls at operators and on the market are undertaken at an appropriate frequency which is based on a risk assessment.

- Official control of PDO/PGI/TSG products is delegated to Control Bodies which are subject to appropriate supervision ..."

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Thank you for your attention

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