Transmission of an established geographical indication of spirit drinks

I. TECHNICAL FILE

1. Name and type

a. Name(s) to be registered

Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / Herbal vodka from the North Podlasie Lowland aromatised with an extract of bison grass (pl)

b. Category

31. Flavoured vodka

c. Applicant country(ies)

Poland

d. Application language:

Polish

e. Type of geographical indication

PGI - protected geographical indication

2. Contact details

a. Applicant name and title

Applicant name and title	Związek Pracodawców - Polski Przemysł Spirytusowy
Legal status, size and composition (in the case of legal persons)	Sectoral organisation representing spirit drink producers
Nationality:	Polish
Address	ul. Trębacka 4, lok. 338 00-074 Warsaw
Country	Poland
Telephone	+48226309891
E-mail(s)	biuro@pps.waw.pl

Applicant name and title	Stowarzyszenie Polska Wódka - Polish Vodka Association
Legal status, size and composition (in the case of legal persons)	Sectoral organisation representing spirit drink producers
Nationality:	Polish
Address	ul. Emilii Plater 53 00-113 Warsaw
Country	Poland
Telephone	+48225971022
E-mail(s)	biuro@pva.org.pl

b. Intermediary details

Intermediary name	Ministerstwo Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)
Address	ul. Wspólna 30 00-930 Warsaw
Country	Poland
Telephone	+48226232208
E-mail(s)	oznaczenia@minrol.gov.pl

c. Interested party details

d. Competent control authority details

Competent control authority name	Inspekcja Jakości Handlowej Artykułów Rolno-Spożywczych (Agri-Food Commercial Quality Inspectorate)
Address	ul. Wspólna 30 00-930 Warsaw
Country	Poland
Telephone	+48226232900
E-mail(s)	sekretariat@ijhars.gov.pl

e. Control body details

Control body name	Inspekcja Jakości Handlowej Artykułów Rolno-Spożywczych (Agri-Food Commercial Quality
Address	ul. Wspólna 30 00-930 Warsaw
Country	Poland
Telephone	+48226232900
E-mail(s)	sekretariat@ijhars.gov.pl

3. Description of the spirit drink

Title - Product name	Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / (...)
Physical, chemical and/or organoleptic characteristics	Flavoured herbal vodka: - colour: light green with a golden tint; - taste: herbal, sweetish, with a slightly bitter aftertaste; - odour: of freshly dried hay (typically of coumarin); - coumarin content: at least 7 mg/l; - strength not less than 37.5 % vol.; - produced in Poland from Polish raw materials, exclusively in the North Podlasie Lowland; produced from ethyl alcohol of agricultural cereal origin with an alcoholic strength of no less than 96.5 % vol.; - sugar content: max. 4.5 g/l expressed as invert sugar.
Specific characteristics (compared with other spirit drinks of the same category)	Flavoured herbal vodka with the following characteristics: - aromatised by a macerate of bison grass (*Hierochloe odorata* and *Hierochloe australis*) growing in the North Podlasie Lowland; - bison grass macerate content: about 1.1 % (depending on the coumarin content of the macerate), - the addition of bison grass macerate affects the colour of the product and imparts a distinctive taste.

4. Define geographical area

a. Description of the defined geographical area

North Podlasie Lowland, Poland

b. NUTS area

5. Method used to obtain the spirit drink

Title - Type of method	Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / (...)
Method	1) Harvesting and preparation of bison grass: The bison grass is harvested by people who possess many years of experience in the rational sourcing of herbal raw materials. The grass is harvested in its natural habitat (in quantities strictly defined in a permit obtained from the Ministry of the Environment) or from fields specially sown with it. After harvesting, the grass is dried in shady places that are protected from direct sunlight. The grass may be dried off in driers. After drying, it must possess the following properties: whole stems and leaves, uniform green colour with a silver tint, characteristic coumarin smell of freshly mown grass, free of mechanical and organic impurities, and a moisture content of no more than 11.5 %. The subsequent stages in the preparation of the grass are: selection of decorative grass and hay, cutting of decorative stalks to specific lengths and packaging. The traditional conditions under which bison grass is harvested, dried and prepared, as developed by specialist firms over many years, and the careful selection of raw materials, are key to determining the appearance and the parameters of the grass. 2) Preparation of bison grass macerate: Bison grass is placed in batches in special equipment called macerators and a hydro-alcoholic solution is poured onto it; this is heated and circulates in a closed-loop system, resulting in coumarin being extracted from the grass. The maceration process lasts for three days. The length of the maceration influences the product's specific colour and odour. The macerate's coumarin content varies as the coumarin content of the bison grass, as a natural product, differs according to the climatic conditions in which it grows. Macerates from different batches are therefore blended and then poured into oak casks to age for one month in order to obtain uniform decanting parameters. After ageing, the macerate is filtered and the intermediate product thus obtained, often called ‘spirit of the forest’, has an intense dark green colour and a pronounced taste and smell of coumarin. 3) Making up vodka in tanks: This process consists in mixing ethyl alcohol of agricultural cereal origin with water, bison grass macerate and sugar syrup. Apart from strength, the key parameter of the vodka that is controlled is its coumarin content, which must be at least 7 mg/l. This is regulated by adding macerate as appropriate. The resulting liquid is stirred and left to stand for 24 hours so that it becomes homogenised, after which it is filtered through cellulose filter plates. Because cellulose filter plates are used, only particulates such as fusels are filtered out and the product's chemical composition is not affected.

4) Bottling, labelling and packaging The filtered vodka is transferred to monobloc machines, which fill bottles and seal them. The sealed bottles are transferred to a labelling machine, where labels including the indication referred to in point 9 of the technical specification are stuck onto them. The labelled bottles are marked with a batch number using ink-jet printers and are then packaged in cartons placed on wooden pallets.

6. Link with the geographical environment or origin

Title - Product name	Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / (...)
Details of the geographical area or origin relevant to the link	Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / Herbal vodka from the North Podlasie Lowland aromatised with an extract of bison grass owes its characteristic taste and smell to bison grass and the macerate that is made from it. The name of this grass, *żubrówka*, comes from the word *żubr* [bison], the name of Europe's largest mammal, whose home is the Białowieża Forest in the North Podlasie Lowland. As an endangered species, bison were placed under protection and were rescued as a result of the efforts of Polish scientists, and the size of the population living in the Białowieża and Knyszyn forests is steadily increasing. Bison grass is part of the bison's diet. Its natural habitat comprises forest glades and meadows on the margins of these forests.
Specific characteristics of the spirit drink attributable to the geographical area	The raw material which gives the herbal vodka its specific traits is bison grass, whose botanical names are sweetgrass (*Hierochloë odorata*) and southern sweetgrass *(Hierochloë australis*). Only bison grass harvested in the North Podlasie Lowland may be used to produce this vodka. The grass may be harvested from the natural environment (in quantities strictly defined in a permit issued by the Ministry of the Environment) or from fields sown with it in the North Podlasie Lowland.
Causal link between the geographical area and the product	The colour and aroma of Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / Herbal vodka from the North Podlasie Lowland aromatised with an extract of bison grass are the result of using bison grass in the production process. The link with the geographical area is also evidenced by the following production-related traditions: - the manual harvesting and preparation of the grass; - the traditional method by which the macerate is obtained; - the use of only natural ingredients.

7. Requirements under EU, national or regional legislation

Title	Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / (...)
Legal reference	1. Act of 18 October 2006 on the production of spirit drinks and the registration and protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks (Journal of Laws 2016, item 822) 2. Regulation of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of 23 December 2010 concerning requirements to be met by certain spirit drinks with geographical indications relating to Poland (Journal of Laws 2011, item 47).
Description of the requirement(s)	Basic requirements relating to production and the definition of the geographical indication 'Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / Herbal vodka from the North Podlasie Lowland aromatised with an extract of bison grass'.

8. Supplement to the geographical indication 9.

Specific labelling rules

Title	Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / (...)
Description of the rule	Labels must include the geographical indication 'Wódka ziołowa z Niziny Północnopodlaskiej aromatyzowana ekstraktem z trawy żubrowej / Herbal vodka from North Podlasie Lowland aromatised with an extract of bison grass', which may be accompanied by the words Chronione Oznaczenie Geograficzne [Protected Geographical Indication] or the abbreviation ChOG [PGI]. The geographical indication may be used in any one of the registered linguistic versions.

II. Other information:

L Supporting material
2. Link to product specification

Hyperlink: