



Hurleys may get protected status

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Hurleys, uilleann pipes, and Irish lace, tweed and crystal could soon be protected following a European Parliament vote.

The parliament has called on the European Commission to introduce legislation to extend EU-wide protection for locally and regionally manufactured goods and crafts.

Food products such as Clonakilty black pudding and the Waterford blaa are already protected under legislation introduced a number of years ago, however this new legislation will factor in non-agricultural products.

A study by the commission has identified more than 800 products in the EU that could benefit, with uilleann pipes, Donegal tweed, crystal, lace and the hurley listed.

Irish MEPs have welcomed the passing of the resolution. Ireland South MEP Deirdre Clune has described it as "a boost for rural Ireland".

Speaking to RTÉ News, French Socialist and Democrat MEP **Virginie Rozière**, who wrote the report, said the introduction of non-agricultural geographical indications would help to maintain jobs and protect crafts within member states.

The European Commission's suggested product list for Ireland is as follows: Borris lace, Carrickmacross lace, Cavan crystal, Clones lace, Cork crystal, Donegal tweed, Galway crystal, hurleys, Kenmare lace, Kilkenny crystal, Limerick lace, Newbridge silverware, Sligo crystal, Tipperary crystal, uilleann pipes and Waterford crystal.

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