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Greece Wins Sole Right to 'Feta Cheese'

Only Greece has the right to call its white salty cheese feta, the European Union's top court said on Tuesday, dismissing an appeal by Denmark and Germany for their cheese makers also to be allowed to use the name.

The European Court of Justice ruled the feta definition was reserved exclusively for cheese from Greece as it had been registered as a protected designation of origin in 2002.

The ruling was a victory for Greece, where feta cheese is believed to have been produced for around 6,000 years. The Greek government has campaigned since 1994 for geographical protection for local feta, which is made from a blend of sheep and goats' milk.

The same kind of protection is enjoyed by Italy's parma ham and French champagne.