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FRANCE (Cascogne) - As on July 1st, a prohibition of selling foie gras entered into force, wine traders from the south west of France have banned Californian wines from their shelves out of indignation. In the Gers department in south France, the center of foie gras production, local wine producers and wine traders are standing shoulder to shoulder with traditional foie gras producers.

The effects are, however, marginally because in this region, only tiny amounts of Californian wines are being sold - it is mostly a symbolic gesture to protect a delicacy and, at the same time, an important part of French culture.

"So far, it has been our cheese, as well our wines that were affected by periodic prohibitions in the US, and now it's even our foie gras", Michel Laporte, regional manager of the Fédération des Cavistes trading group, says upset. "The turnover with our foie gras in California amounts to as few as 4 percent maximally, however we will defend our heritage, even though it's only a symbolic gesture."

Although Mr. Laporte emphasizes that the move takes place at personal and regional level, he had asked the national president of the FCI in writing to make his views known. At the same time, French traders selling foie gras together with American foie gras producers brought an action before the Californian government.

For this action, the Hudson Valley Foie Gras, the Association des Eleveurs de Canards et d'Oies du Québec and the Californian Hot Restaurant Group Inc. have joined together. The central point of their complaint is that the law didn't clearly express which products have been banned really. Moreover, the law was an unfair burden for restaurants and traders. (red.yoopress)