

Question for written answer E-014647/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Attack on Italian wine production

Italian wine is the symbol *par excellence* of the Made in Italy brand all around the world. Italy took top spot in global wine production this year with an output of 48.8 million hectolitres. Of the 112 top international sparkling wines, 95 are from Italy.

However, while for the rest of the world Italy is considered to be the land of fine wine, in Europe some Nordic parliamentarians have come up with the absurd proposal to force European quality labelling on wines: specifically, they are looking to impose rules obliging producers of the many different wine varieties to use standard packaging and even so-called 'white labels' advising against consumption, as is the practice for cigarettes.

The wine producers of southern Europe are coming under sustained attack. With the latest proposal coming hard on the heels of the abolition of the requirement for place-of-origin labelling, attempts are thus being made to favour the production of third countries, with the resultant surge in the market for falsely labelled products and a marketing regime free of any restrictions.

In the light of this, can the Commission tell us:

- is it aware of this proposal, and how does it intend to block it as quickly as possible?
- what urgent measures does it intend to take to further protect excellence in European winemaking, a matter that is of primary concern to the Mediterranean-area Member States for which recognition of this excellence is key to their the economic recovery?