

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3277/02

by Astrid Lulling (PPE-DE) and Reinhold Messner (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Production methods for Maltese quality wines

Following the Commission's answer to the written question E-2267/02¹ it has come to our knowledge that the European Union is prepared to concede to Malta two major departures from fundamental labelling principles for a transitional period:

- the addition of sugar in the production of wine - something unheard of in a Southern European country; and
 - the granting of a quality wine Malta PSR status to a wine produced in Malta from grapes or grape must imported from overseas.
1. Can the Commission confirm this?
 2. If so, can the Commission guarantee that this transitional period will not put regular Maltese winemakers at a serious disadvantage?
 3. Is there no danger of this creating a precedent vis-à-vis other Mediterranean winemaking nations?

¹ JO C