

**Question for written answer E-008028/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Protection of PDOs in the agreement with ICANN

Like other Member States, France protects certain of its products by means of Protected Designations of Origin (PDOs), which are a special type of geographical indication (GI) identifying geographical origin and guaranteeing authenticity and uniqueness. Big-name wines ('grands vins'), for example, benefit from the label, which safeguards their production with its basis on local know-how.

The American ICANN organisation, which assigns internet domain names, has grouped together domains listed under '.wine' or '.vin' and does not intend to impose an obligation to respect GIs. This means that an exporter from a non-European country could set up a site with the name www.processecco.wine and use it to sell a simple sparkling wine. This would be detrimental to European wine-growers and consumers.

At the most recent meeting between ICANN and the stakeholders at the end of June, France called for the suspension of negotiations on allocating domain names while a solution to the GI issue was sought, but the request was turned down.

In the light of the above, what does the Commission intend to do to forestall any decision by ICANN which might be detrimental to GIs and PDOs throughout the world?

In a broader sense, what strategy will the Commission draw up to protect and promote European wines in the context of trade relations between the EU and the US?