

**Question for written answer E-009825/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Herbert Dorfmann (PPE), Eric Andrieu (S&D), Michel Dantin (PPE), Norbert Lins (PPE), Nicola Caputo (S&D), Nicola Danti (S&D), Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D), Paolo De Castro (S&D), Massimo Paolucci (S&D), Anne Sander (PPE), Alojz Peterle (PPE), Michela Giuffrida (S&D), Renata Briano (S&D), Marco Zullo (EFDD), Elisabeth Köstinger (PPE), Paul Rübig (PPE), Mara Bizzotto (NI), Victor Negrescu (S&D), Robert Rochefort (ALDE), Marielle de Sarnez (ALDE), Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Jérôme Lavrilleux (PPE), Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE), Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE), Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE), Angélique Delahaye (PPE), Franck Proust (PPE), Esther Herranz García (PPE), Werner Langen (PPE) and Barbara Kappel (NI)

Subject: Recognition of geographic indications on the internet - negotiations with Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is currently debating how intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the wine sector should be registered and protected on the internet.

Concerns have arisen over the non-recognition of geographic indications (GIs) as IPRs within ICANN, which will create major issues for a number of top-level domains, particularly for the '.wine' and '.vin' domains.

If no specific safeguards are introduced regarding the use of GIs on the internet, the principles establishing the proper existence of GIs in the EU will be jeopardised. Indeed, any bidder will be able to buy GI wine names for his or her exclusive use, and even to sell counterfeits or products which may have no link with the wine region in question. This will constitute a dangerous precedent for other GI products, such as spirits or cheese, which may subsequently be dealt with by ICANN.

We welcome the Commission's decision to make a Reconsideration Request and subsequently to take action through the Cooperative Engagement Process (CEP).

Should the CEP fail, however, is the Commission prepared to engage in the ICANN Independent Review Procedure with a view to guaranteeing the protection of GIs on the internet?