

**Question for written answer E-010460/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)

Subject: EU wine: timely agreements to open up the Chinese market

China represents a huge opportunity for the European wine sector, and the Italian one in particular, being worth nowadays around EUR 75 million by itself alone. Despite the enormous resources poured out in recent years on promoting the sector in China, the high customs duties and formidable bureaucracy cause many difficulties. Negotiations between the European Union and the People's Republic of China on protection of the geographical indications of EU foodstuffs and wines are in fact still ongoing. During the most recent meeting the parties confirmed their intention to reach an agreement within the next few months, in order to guarantee EU geographical indications, including those of the 22 top Italian wines, direct protection. There can be no doubt that the EU wants to ensure its own geographical indications are better protected within Chinese territory than they are under the TRIPS Agreement on intellectual property.

- What is the state of play in these negotiations?
- Does the Commission believe new initiatives should be taken to speed up signature of these bilateral agreements so that the deadlock over protection of the whole of the EU wine sector, including the Italian one, may be broken?