

**Question for written answer E-013022/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Labelling of alcoholic beverages to indicate nutritional content and additives

Recent disclosures about Friuli wines in Northern Italy¹ have revealed that additives are used in the wine industry to initiate fermentation. However, labels on wine bottles and bottles containing other alcoholic beverages do not provide any information for consumers about the additives used (such as tannin, sugars and acids). As a result, consumers are not told, and so remain unaware, that alcohol can damage health. The need to inform consumers correctly about calories and additives was also touched upon in the European Parliament's resolution of 29 April 2015.

Article 16 of the Regulation on food information (Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011) required the Commission to submit a report by 13 December 2014 assessing how alcoholic beverages could comply with the requirement to provide information concerning ingredients and nutrient content. Has the Commission fulfilled this obligation? If so, where can this report be read?

What will the Commission do in response to this incident concerning additives in wine and alcoholic beverages, and what measures will the Commission take?

¹ Cf.: http://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20150915_01869088