

**Question for written answer E-014131/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The Commission knows nothing about wine

Under the new EU vine planting authorisation scheme, which will come into force on 1 January 2016, planting 'rights' will be valid for a maximum of three years, rather than the current eight.

A fallow period of more than three years between grubbing-up and replanting is often necessary to restore soil fertility. What is more, fallow periods and crop rotation are encouraged under the CAP. Is the Commission aware that the planned scheme is not compatible with the vine growing cycle?

Encouraging wine producers to replant before the soil has even had a chance to recover will weaken new vines and shorten their life span. This short-sighted, purely commercial approach will increase the proportion of newer vines to 'old vines', which produce the best wines. Is the Commission aware that the new system will undermine the quality and competitiveness of European wines?

Lastly, a fallow period after grubbing-up is required for soil sanitisation, natural fertilisation and the prevention of erosion, which are key issues in the rapidly expanding organic farming sector. What changes will the Commission make in order to correct its approach?