

**Question for written answer E-001103/2017**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Notis Marias (ECR)**

Subject: Reduced special excise duty on the traditional national drinks 'Tsipouro' and 'Tsikoudià' in Greece

In September 2015 the Commission called upon Greece to modify its legislation on the special excise duty applicable to the traditional national drinks 'Tsipouro' and 'Tsikoudià', on the pretext that the same rate of excise duty should be applied to the ethyl alcohol used for making alcoholic beverages, unless subject to exceptions or derogations.

On 15 February 2017 the Commission referred Greece to the EU Court, noting that it applied a reduced rate of excise duty to 'Tsipouro' and 'Tsikoudià'.

However, the relevant EU regulation on the taxation of alcoholic beverages provides for derogations where a drink is characterised as the national product of a country, in which case a reduced rate of excise duty applies. This the case with ouzo – a Greek national product – which is officially classified as a national product and is subject to a reduced rate of excise duty.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Why are 'Tsipouro' and 'Tsikoudià' not subject to a reduced rate of excise duty like ouzo, even though they are traditional national products?

What measures will it take to protect and develop the 'Tsipouro' and 'Tsikoudià' production sector in Greece?