

**Question for written answer E-003321/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE) and Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Restrictions on vineyard planting permits in the Cava DO

In October 2016, the Regulatory Board for the Cava Designation of Origin (DO) took a decision to send to Spain's Ministry of Agriculture the following recommendations pursuant to Article 65 of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013¹: limit vineyard planting authorisations for 2017 in the area covered by the DO; restrict planting on grubbed-up land outside the DO; and restrict authorisations arising from the conversion of rights.

Alongside its decision, the Regulatory Board also submitted a study, drawn up by the University of La Rioja and Rovira i Virgili University, on the possibilities for expanding the surface area covered by vineyards in the Cava DO area (see attached). In a resolution adopted on 24 January 2017², however, Spain's Ministry of Agriculture rejected the Regulatory Board's recommendation, stating that it did not comply with all the relevant requirements. Under EU legislation, Member States must provide sufficient justification for their decision and notify the Commission thereof.

1. Does the Commission take the view that the aforementioned study fails to provide the sufficient justification required under EU legislation?
2. Does the Commission take the view that the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture's decision justifies its rejection of the Regulatory Board's recommendation?

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R1308&from=en>

² <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2017/01/30/pdfs/BOE-A-2017-964.pdf>