

Question for written answer E-007423/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Esther Herranz García (PPE)

Subject: Protection for the Rioja qualified designation of origin

One of the issues that has sparked most concern in the European agricultural sector, in the context of the trade negotiations with Mercosur that are currently underway, is protection for European geographical indications and designations of origin.

The Official Journal of the European Union C 353, published on 20 October 2017, contains a request for the geographical indication 'La Rioja Argentina' to be protected as part of the ongoing negotiations with Mercosur.

Bearing in mind the confusion that this could create among consumers and the damage it could do to the well-established Rioja qualified designation of origin:

1. What is the Commission's position on this request?
2. What specific measures will the Commission include in the Mercosur agreement, and in other agreements where these issues could arise, in order to protect designations of origin and geographical indications?