

Question for written answer P-012313/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Werner Langen (PPE)

Subject: Levying of wine tax on wine imported into France

France levies wine tax, currently at the rate of EUR 0.065 per bottle of wine or sparkling wine. Foreign producers are required, *de facto*, to be able to display a French tax stamp on the sealing capsules of bottles at the time of importation into France. The capsules first have to be procured from France, where they are produced only by a few licensed manufacturers. This makes the price payable for the capsules relatively high. In addition, foreign producers require a permit from the French authorities in order to be allowed to export from France the capsules bearing the tax stamp. This involves considerable administrative burden, particularly for small growers.

1. Is the Commission aware of the procedure adopted by the French authorities for the taxation of imported wine?
2. Does the Commission consider the procedure, under which the tax stamp can only be obtained in conjunction with a sealing capsule, to be compatible with European law?
3. Does this procedure accord with the rules of the World Trade Organisation?