

**Question for written answer P-002745/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Franck Proust (PPE) and Michel Dantin (PPE)

Subject: Unfair competition - wines of European origin marketed under French-sounding brand names

Producers of 'vin de pays d'Oc', a French wine with a protected geographical indication (PGI), are facing what they consider unfair competition from cheap European – mainly Spanish – wines marketed under French-sounding brand names, whose style of presentation and labelling seems calculated to confuse consumers about their origin.

If the accusations were to prove well founded, the production and marketing of such products might amount to misuse of the 'pays d'Oc' reputation and hence to an infringement of Article 103 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, whereby PGI wines are protected against the following: 'any misuse, imitation or evocation, even if the true origin of the product ... is indicated or if the protected name is translated'; 'any other false or misleading indication as to the provenance ... [or] origin ... of the product, on the inner or outer packaging ... [or] advertising material'; and 'any other practice liable to mislead the consumer as to the true origin of the product'.

1. Is the Commission aware of this possible breach of European PGI law?
2. What could it do to stop practices of this sort?