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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by María Esther Herranz García, Christa Klaß, Astrid Lulling and Giuseppe Castiglione

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the wine agreement between the European Union and the United States

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European Parliament resolution on the wine agreement between the European Union and the United States

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the bilateral agreement on the trade in wine signed by the European Union and the United States on 14 September 2005,
 - having regard to the agriculture chapter of the ongoing WTO negotiations,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. considering the negative consequences of the unrestricted mutual recognition of oenological procedures for the European wine industry,
- B. whereas the protection of geographical indications of origin will continue to be the subject of future negotiations and that the future restriction on the use of Community geographical indications by US producers does not apply to any persons, or their successors-in-interest, using a Community geographical indication before the date established in the agreement,
- C. whereas the wrongful use of EU geographical indications of origin by third countries violates intellectual property rights and causes economic harm to the legitimate holders of the designations on account of loss of market share,
- D. whereas the United States constitutes the principal export market for EU wines, accounting for 40 % of Community exports,
- E. whereas false designations often provide stiff competition for genuine designations,
- F. with reference to the deviation from the previous line for bilateral agreements and from the idea of an international standard for wine and manufacturing put forward by the International Organisation for Vine and Wine (OIV),
- G. whereas this agreement would set a precedent in terms of the WTO most-favoured-nation clause,
- H. considering the crisis situation affecting certain European regions on account of the decrease in demand and the increase in imports from third countries,
- I. with reference to the disadvantages caused by the definition of the term ‘wine’ on the European wine market for special wines,
- J. with reference to the disadvantages for special wines caused by the definition of the term

‘wine’,

1. Underlines the view that the agreement in this form constitutes a danger to the European viticulture family and the European wine industry;
2. Draws attention to the repercussions that the new agreement could have for EU wine trade policy and its possible consequences for traditional models of production, which form the basis of the recognition of Community quality policy;
3. Calls on the Commission to step up calls at the WTO negotiations for the establishment of a register of geographical indications recognised at international level and to include this objective in its principal priorities in the multilateral negotiations on agriculture;
4. Calls on the Commission to accelerate the launch, as soon as possible, of the next stage of negotiations provided for in the agreement with the United States in order to obtain recognition of the 17 designations listed in Annex II to the agreement;
5. Considers necessary the signature of a final compromise within, at the latest, the two years indicated in the bilateral agreement, with a view to putting a stop, once and for all, to the illegal use in the United States of Community designations protected by Community legislation, given the added value they represent to European wine making;
6. Calls for the establishment of a positive list of oenological practices permitted in trade with third countries, as well as the creation of an independent body charged with making evaluations prior to new authorisations in future;
7. Calls on the Commission to promote immediately the negotiation at international level of a binding definition of wine that would halt the development of certain oenological practices, in order to protect the efforts made to maintain quality in the EU, to avoid Community producers being subjected to unfair competition and to prevent market imbalances;
8. Considers vital the strengthening of Community support measures to improve and promote the quality of Community products as part of the next reform of the common organisation of the market, in order to meet the challenge of increased competition from third countries;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, along with the names of its signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.