

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

26.9.2005

B6-0514/2005

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 Anne Laperrouze, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Niels Busk, Ignasi Guardans
Cambó and Willem Schuth

on behalf of the ALDE Group

on the EU-US wine agreement

B6-0514

European Parliament resolution on the EU-US wine agreement

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas political and economic relations are the bedrock of EU-US relations, the scope of which is constantly widening,
- B. having regard to the ‘EU-US Declaration on Strengthening our Economic Partnership’ (Dromoland Declaration of 2004) and the Commission communication on ‘A stronger EU-US Partnership and a more open market for the 21st century’ of 18 May 2005,
- C. whereas the US is the biggest importer of EU wines (40% of our exports in value) while the EU is the biggest importer of US wines, accounting for 2.3 billion EUR per year,
- D. whereas a ‘first-phase’ agreement was initialled on 14 September in Washington D.C., the legal procedures have been launched and the Council is expected to adopt the agreement in the near future,
 1. Welcomes the US- EU agreement on trade in wine, which will improve cooperation while aiming at facilitating trade in wine between the US and the EU in order to improve cooperation on the development, and enhance the transparency, of regulations affecting such trade, thereby avoiding a potential disruption in the trade sector;
 2. Welcomes the acceptance by the US of the main principles of EU labelling rules and the fact that the US administration will propose to Congress a change in the status and limitation of the use of 17 European wine names which are currently regarded as semi-generic (Burgundy, Chablis, Champagne, Chianti, Claret, Haut-Sauterne, Hock, Madeira, Malaga, Marsala, Moselle, Retsina, Rhine Sauterne, Sherry and Tokay);
 3. Calls on the European Commission to continue the dialogue with the US on geographical indications, traditional expressions (chateau, classic, clos, cream, crusted/crusting, fine, late-bottled vintage noble, ruby, superior, sur lie, tawny, vintage and vintage character), wine-making practices, certification and the creation of a joint committee on wine issues with a view to a second-phase negotiation;
 4. Acknowledges the need for a framework for continued negotiations in the wine sector, in particular in the light of the upcoming reform of the EU Common Market Organisation for wine which is scheduled for 2006;
 5. Reiterates the importance of the EU’s first and most valuable export market for wine;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the US Congress.