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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 Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Marie-Hélène Aubert, Milan Horáček and David Hammerstein Mintz

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the EU-US wine agreement

**B6-0515/2005**

**European Parliament resolution on the EU-US wine agreement**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the bilateral agreement on trade in wine between the European Union and the United States concluded on 14 September 2005,
  - having regard to Council Regulation 1493/99 on the common organisation of the market in wine,
  - having regard to Council Regulation 2081/92 on geographical indications of origin,
  - having regard to the Framework Agreement between the Commission and Parliament, stipulating that in connection with international trade agreements, the Commission shall provide early and clear information to Parliament both during the phase of preparation of the agreements and during the conduct and conclusion of international negotiations, including draft negotiating directives, the adopted negotiating directives, the subsequent conduct of negotiations and the conclusion of the negotiations,
  - having regard to previous efforts by wine producers worldwide to create common international quality standards for wine within the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), which should be taken into account in international agreements in this sector,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas wine production in the European Union is based on a legal framework of quality requirements, labelling and control which allows producers and consumers of wine to make a choice between a rich diversity of grape varieties and wines which are territorially based and bound by specific methods of production and processing,
- B. whereas the legal framework of geographical indications is an important element in EU policies, recognising as it does the importance of multifunctional agriculture and the social and environmental impact of wine production in mountainous areas and disadvantaged regions,
- C. whereas the wine sector in Europe offers a major source of employment and income from small family farms and small wine enterprises, based on the territorial approach of European wine policies,
1. Criticises the Commission for having agreed to a bilateral deal with the US without informing Parliament in sufficient time for it to be able to express its point of view and for the Commission to be able to take Parliament's views into account, as laid down in Article 19 of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission (2005/2076(ACI));
  2. Criticises the Commission for agreeing to a bilateral deal with the US which undermines

the very principles of EU legislation on wine quality and on geographical indications in general;

3. Deplores the fact that this agreement will substantially weaken the EU's position in the negotiations on agriculture within the WTO, as it undermines the territorial and quality-oriented approach which is practised in a large part of the wine sector;
4. Criticises the Commission for having given up on a firm deadline for the US to phase out the use of traditional European names of origin such as 'Sherry' and 'Burgundy', and urges the Commission to prevent the importing of wines which have been produced using unacceptable oenological practices such as adding water or fractionating the ingredients through a spinning cone column;
5. Criticises the Commission for accepting, in Article 12 of the agreement, an informal declaration on geographical indications (GI) rather than insisting on a formal acceptance of GIs and protected denominations, as was done in the EU-Australia wine agreement, thus allowing US wine producers to continue to use specific European traditional terms such as 'Champagne', 'chateau', 'Ruby' and 'Classic' without having to comply with the same standards for their production;
6. Decides, on the basis of Article 300 of the EC Treaty, to call upon the European Court of Justice to give an opinion as to whether the bilateral agreement infringes European law, specifically on geographical indications;
7. Urges the Commission to revise the agreement accordingly during the upcoming second round of negotiations, in line with the territorial and quality approach to be taken in the reform of the wine sector, which should strengthen sustainable practices, reduce surplus production and put an end to obligatory distillation;
8. Calls upon the Commission specifically to strengthen organic and quality production in the reform of the wine sector, including social and environmental production criteria and cross-compliance;
9. Calls upon the Commission to include in future negotiations the concepts of 'qualified market access' and 'qualified external protection', endorsed by the European Parliament, incorporating social and environmental standards in all agreements on the tariff and levy system so as to ensure that the specific territorial, social and environmental costs and standards applied in the EU are not undercut by unsustainable and low-quality wine production;
10. Calls upon the Council not to ratify the agreement and to revise the mandate of the Commission in this field accordingly, so as to stop the trend towards an industrialisation of wine-making and a further weakening of the principles of geographical indications of origin;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the EU Member States.