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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 Sergio Berlato, Roberta Angelilli and Sebastiano (Nello) Musumeci

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the EU-USA agreement on wine

European Parliament resolution on the EU-USA agreement on wine

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the bilateral agreement on the wine trade which was signed by the European Union and the USA on 14 September 2005,
 - having regard to the agriculture sector of the World Trade Organisation negotiations,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the agreement signed on 14 September stipulates that within 90 days of the agreement's entry into force, negotiations shall begin on an even farther-reaching agreement - negotiations which will include discussions on geographical indications, on designations of origin (including the future of semi-generic names), on the use of traditional names, on low-alcohol wines, on certification, on wine-making practices and on the establishment of a joint committee to consider wine-making issues,
- B. whereas the USA absorbs 40% of EU exports and therefore constitutes the prime market for EU wine,
- C. whereas the mutual recognition of wine-making procedures which is provided for in the agreement initialled on 14 September 2005 will have a damaging effect on the European wine industry,
- D. whereas recognition of US wine-making practices will allow pieces of wood to be inserted into wine casks in order to speed up the aromatisation process and will also allow for artificial aromatisation, the addition of water and the blending of wines (currently banned in the case of European producers),
- E. whereas the USA will still be able to use (albeit subject to certain conditions and for a limited period of time) 14 of the EU's traditional names,
- F. whereas the appropriation of EU geographical indications by non-EU countries is an infringement of intellectual-property rights and exposes the legitimate holders of such designations to financial loss,
- G. whereas false indications very often compete strongly with genuine designations,
- H. having regard to the crisis in which certain regions of Europe find themselves on account of the fall in demand and the increase in imports from non-EU countries,
1. Emphasises the fact that the agreement constitutes merely an initial, insufficient and inadequate step towards international recognition of the EU's protected traditional names;

2. Draws attention to the effects which the new agreement could have on EU wine-trade policy and the implications which it could have for traditional forms of production, upon which recognition of the Community quality policy is currently based;
3. Calls upon the Commission to make a greater effort at the WTO negotiations to establish an internationally recognised register of geographical indications and to include such an objective amongst its priorities in the multilateral agriculture negotiations;
4. Calls upon the Commission to speed up the new round of negotiations provided for in the agreement which has been concluded with the USA, with a view to securing recognition of the 17 designations listed in Annex II thereto;
5. Considers that a final EU-USA agreement must be reached within two years at most, in order to put a stop to the illegal use in the USA of geographical indications which are protected under Community law;
6. Calls for a list to be drawn up of the wine-making practices which are accepted in trade with non-EU countries and for an independent international body to be set up for the purpose of carrying out assessments in connection with future authorisation of wine-making practices;
7. Urges the Commission to promote negotiations at international level on a binding definition of wine which will halt the development of certain wine-making practices, with a view to safeguarding the EU's efforts to improve quality and in order to prevent EU producers from being exposed to unfair competition;
8. Hopes for the repeal of Regulation (EEC) No 753/2002 (as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 316/2004), which has in effect allowed producers in non-EU countries to use protected traditional names, thereby misleading consumers as regards product origin and quality;
9. Considers that Community support measures must be strengthened with a view to more successful promotion of the quality of Community products in the context of the forthcoming WTO reform, with a view to meeting increased competition from non-EU countries;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.