

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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18 March 2004

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jean-Louis Bernié, Yves Butel, Alain Esclopé, Véronique Mathieu and Jean Saint-Josse

on recognition of the specificity of wine and defence of the European wine-growing industry

Expiry date: 6 May 2004

21/2004

Written declaration on recognition of the specificity of wine and defence of the European wine-growing industry

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 753/2002 of 29 April 2002 laying down certain rules for applying Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 as regards the description, designation, presentation and protection of certain wine sector products,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine, particularly Recital 2 concerning a quality policy in this sector and Recital 7 advocating that regional diversity be taken into account,
 - having regard to Regulation No 165/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims relating to foodstuffs,
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999, which is under debate, advocates banning any statement, even if based on proven and substantiated information, concerning beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol,
- B. having regard to the amendments proposed by the Commission on 23 February 2004 to Regulation (EC) No 753/2002 which would authorise the use by third countries not only of such traditional expressions as 'château' but also of such expressions as 'vin jaune' or 'vintage' which were previously reserved to the countries of the European Union,
- C. having regard to the nobility of wine and its traditional place in the culture of certain Member States,
- D. having regard to the growing difficulties facing the industry,
1. Urges the Community institutions and particularly the Commission to recognise that wine is a specific natural food,
 2. Urges the Community institutions and particularly the Commission to recognise that a public health policy which is necessary and which advocates moderate consumption of wine is not incompatible with promoting quality wine products,
 3. Urges the Community institutions and particularly the Commission to increase protection of geographical indications and traditional designations used to label wine which correspond to a traditional economic reality, accordingly forming part of the heritage of the States concerned,
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.