

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jean-Claude Martinez

on the dramatic situation facing European wine growers

Lapse date: 22.5.2006

0012/2006

Written declaration on the dramatic situation facing European wine growers

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the collapse in wine prices has left many European vineyards with a turnover of €20 000 a year and fixed costs of €15 000, in other words an annual income of €5 000, which is condemning thousands of families to poverty,
- B. whereas this human tragedy is the result of the policies adopted by the European Commission, namely a reduction in customs tariff protection at the WTO, abandoning Community preference, free-trade agreements for wine with South Africa and the United States, failure to protect our PGIs, etc.,
 1. Considers that although the Commission and Council are free to determine policy, they nevertheless have a duty to honour public commitments and to provide compensation for the devastating effects that their policies are having on the survival of wine growers in the South;
 2. Calls for:
 - (a) a financial mechanism to eliminate European wine stocks;
 - (b) a European fund to be set up to honour public commitments and clear the debt owed by wine growers as a result of free-trade agreements destroying fair competition;
 - (c) a European territorial equalisation fund to be set up to compensate wine growers in the South who are being driven off their land by covert expropriation at injurious prices as a result of the free circulation of the financial power of purchasers from northern Europe;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments of the Member States.