

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3545/00
by Ursula Schleicher (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Wine flasks

In the German media, especially in the German wine producing area of Franconia, a Commission proposal is causing a considerable stir. From what I hear the Commission is about to remove the existing protection for the traditional bulbous wine flasks used in Germany/Franconia, Portugal and northern Italy, in the course of a review of existing legislation. Apparently the Management Committee for Wine is dealing with the matter.

1. Is there any truth in these press reports (including Bild of 9 October 2000 and VWD (Economic News Agency) of 12 October 2000)?
2. Why does the Commission think it necessary to change the existing legislation and allegedly remove the protection for specially protected bottle shapes?