

**Question for written answer E-001489/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Ban on vine planting as part of reform of the wine market

As part of the reform of the EU's common agricultural policy it was decided that the existing rules of the wine market, as with other sectors, should be converted into a common market organisation (CMO). This CMO, and in particular its ban on vine-planting, risks exposing traditional wine regions to disproportionate competitive pressure owing to the 'industrialisation' of wine growing. It is to be feared that traditional wine production, particularly in the high-quality steep slopes and hillsides, will cease to be economically viable. This would lead not only to a drop in wine quality, but also to the loss of our unique cultural landscape and thus of much that makes it attractive to tourists. In the course of the wine market reform the Commission was asked to submit a report focusing in particular on experience with the implementation of the reform.

1. Will the 2012 mid-term review be taken as an opportunity to consider reversing the ban on vine-planting?
2. What is the Commission's view of the financial loss which threatens wine-growers as a result of the dramatic fall in value of formerly profitable plots of land?
3. What is the Commission's view of the value of lovingly tended wine-slopes for tourism in wine regions?
4. What is the Commission doing to improve the quality- and price-awareness of European citizens?
5. Does the Commission plan any specific subsidies for wine-growers who cultivate vineyards in sloping situations?