

**Question for written answer E-001516/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Dominique Vlasto (PPE)**

Subject: Sales of wine to private individuals in the EU

The sale of wine to private individuals in Europe is a major element in the development of the wine sector. The current tax arrangements, however, make it difficult for small-scale growers and online sales websites to sell wine within the EU.

Currently, winegrowers and wine sales websites selling to private individuals resident in other Member States must pay excise duty connected with public interest concerns (e.g. public health). To do this, they must register for excise purposes in the country of destination and fill in the required forms (in this case, an 'electronic administrative document'). This procedure must be followed in each Member State to which the winegrowers wish to export.

The administrative red tape and the costs involved in excise collection mean that independent winegrowers cannot really benefit from the single market and amount to a form of discrimination against small-scale winegrowers, to the benefit of large-scale traders and producers: the costs incurred as a result of tax are practically the same whether 2 or 20 cases of wine are being sold.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to cut the red tape associated with excise collection with a view to helping small-scale wine producers increase their trade within the EU?
2. Is the Commission in favour of the establishment of a one-stop scheme for excise collection (based on the one-stop cross-border VAT scheme) to allow winegrowers to pay the foreign excise duty in their own country?