

**Question for written answer E-000839/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Paul Rübzig (PPE)

Subject: Status of Austrian dual owners and non-dual owners

So-called dual owners (i.e. cross-border owners of agricultural land since before 1953), whose status is regulated in the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning minor frontier traffic (Austrian Federal Gazette (BGBl.) 379 of 30.10.1968), are able to process in Austria their grapes that have been harvested in Slovenia, and to sell them as wine with indications of origin, type and vintage.

Wine growers who do not have the status of dual owners, but who likewise harvest grapes in their nearby Slovenian vineyards and process them in Austria, are only allowed to sell this wine as 'EU wine', without indications of origin, type and vintage.

In this context, I ask the Commission to answer the following questions:

1. What does the Commission propose to do in order to eliminate the discrimination between those wine growers who have dual owner status and those who do not?
2. What does the Commission propose to do in order to facilitate cross-border but regional wine growing and cross-border but regional wine processing?
3. How can the Commission facilitate wine processing within the European Union – while at the same time upholding high quality standards and regional wine cultures and also taking into account the need for adequate information to be provided to consumers?