

**Question for written answer E-003019/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Giancarlo Scottà (EFD)

Subject: Measures for controlling the brandy maturing process

Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2008 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks includes brandy or *Weinbrand* in category No 5 in Annex II, in which it is defined as 'a spirit drink [...] matured for at least one year in oak receptacles or for at least six months in oak casks with a capacity of less than 1 000 litres'.

Article 12(3) of the above-cited Regulation stipulates that 'a maturation period [...] may [...] be specified in the description, presentation or labelling of a spirit drink [...] provided that the spirit drink was aged under revenue supervision or supervision affording equivalent guarantees'.

It is further stipulated in Article 24 of the above-cited Regulation that:

- '1. Member States shall be responsible for the control of spirit drinks. They shall take the measures necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Regulation and in particular they shall designate the competent authority or authorities responsible for controls in respect of the obligations established by this Regulation in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
2. Member States and the Commission shall communicate to each other the information necessary for the application of this Regulation.
3. The Commission, in consultation with the Member States, shall ensure the uniform application of this Regulation [...]'.

It has emerged that several Member States have not taken the measures necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions and have not designated the competent authority or authorities responsible for controls, thereby breaching Article 24(1) and thus not ensuring the correct application of Article 12(3).

1. Can the Commission indicate whether it is aware of these infringements?
2. Does it consider that the requirement of reciprocal communication cited in Article 24(2) has also not been met?
3. What actions does it intend to take in order to ensure that the brandy market does not become any less competitive due to the maturing provisions not being universally applied?