

**Question for written answer E-004349/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: New web domains in the wine-growing sector threaten designations of origin - request for EU intervention

In a recent statement on the release by ICANN, the body responsible for the management of the Internet domain naming system, of the domains .vin and .wine, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Dacian Ciolos, stated that their simple release is unacceptable without specific safeguards to protect geographical indications, which, he added, '... are one of the main priorities in international trade negotiations within the EU. They represent a basic tool to protect consumers and add value to the work of producers, not only in Europe but throughout the world'.

We recall recent statements and the answer to our question E-009482-13 'New web domains in the wine-growing sector threaten designations of origin', in which the Commission stated that it would make every effort with ICANN to safeguard EU public interests and that it would also 'make direct contact with the executive committee of ICANN to ensure that proper consideration is given to EU interests before approving the two domain names .wine and .vin'.

In view of the foregoing,

1. Can the Commission comment on the developments of the situation?
2. Can the Commission state how it in fact intends to prevent such domains from being used by individuals or companies unconnected with the production of wines protected by geographical indications of origin?
3. Does the Commission intend to prohibit the creation of the domains referred to where it is not possible to put strong, specific safeguards in place to prevent designations from being improperly used?