

**Question for written answer E-004393/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Elisabetta Gardini (PPE)

Subject: The .wine and .vin domains for sale

ICANN, the American organisation that has handled the allocation of domain names since 1998, has decided to liberalise the Top-Level Domains (TLD) .wine and .vin.

The two TLDs in question will be sold to the highest bidder, with no safeguards concerning geographical indication and the relative brands.

Considering the development of e-commerce on a global scale, this decision could have a serious impact on the turnover of European wine-producing businesses, particularly those from France and Italy, while simultaneously misleading consumers.

There is a genuine risk that Prosecco, Barbera and Morellino wines (to name but a few) with the extension .wine could be used by companies which do not produce the original wine.

1. Considering that a large part of the turnover of the wine-producing industry comes from on-line sales and that websites represent the business card of companies or consortia, which strategy does the Commission intend to adopt in order to safeguard the European wine-producing industry?
2. Which measures can it implement to protect consumers?