

**Question for written answer E-005429/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Protecting the quality of wines in the context of the reform of planting rights

The Commission's planting rights proposals continue to reserve surprises for European wine growers. Most recently, it is the issue of the quality of wine which has been prompting producers to voice concerns.

The Commission has proposed a draft delegated act on replanting rights which stipulates that, following grubbing-up, a producer may replant vines anywhere in his or her vineyard irrespective of the classification (Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) or Wine Without Geographical Indication) of the parcel concerned. This measure would run completely counter to the objective of safeguarding the quality of European wines.

The automatic granting, following grubbing-up, of planting rights for any parcel in a vineyard, irrespective of classification, is highly problematical. Quite apart from the fact that these practices may lead to the reputation of certain PDOs being misappropriated, there is a risk that geographical indications will be downgraded and, above all, that the overall quality of wines in the Union will be levelled down. The decision would thus not only be detrimental to those producers who focus on PDO or PGI wines, but also to consumers, who would no longer be able to tell precisely where wines have come from. PDO wine producers quite rightly fear that the delegated act which the Commission is preparing to adopt is not sufficiently detailed and does not therefore provide a proper regulatory framework for replanting following grubbing-up.

The delegated act as it stands gives Member States the option of imposing restrictions on certain transfer practices. These restrictions do not go far enough. The Commission has set early April as the deadline for completing the negotiations with the Member States and plans to submit its draft delegated act to Parliament in July.

Can the Commission say how it intends to protect the authenticity of European wines in the context of the reform of planting rights?