

**Question for written answer E-004314/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Elisabeth Köstinger (PPE)

Subject: Measures to protect 'Uhudler'

The typical South Burgenland wine 'Uhudler' is made from direct producer grapes (varieties such as Isabella, Concord and Ripadella) which are limited to growing in just a few municipalities in South Burgenland. However, for the EU, these direct producer varieties cannot apparently be maintained due to the phytosanitary threat to the European quality grape variety. Since 1995, only four grape varieties have been authorised, but only until 31 December 2030 and subject to a planting prohibition.

'Uhudler' is part of the Burgenland identity and a cultivation ban has both an economic and a cultural impact on winegrowers and the region as a whole.

1. How does the Commission justify the ban on these direct producer grapes and what measures are planned for the winegrowers affected post-2013?
2. What is the state of progress in research at European level and on what data is the Commission relying? Are there already alternatives to the current varieties that do not give rise to phytosanitary concerns?
3. Is the Commission aware of similar cases and, if so, in which Member States? How can we support the regions concerned?