

**Question for written answer E-001347/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Arbitrary ban on the use of the names 'tsipouro' and 'tsikoudia' by small distillers

The Agricultural Associations and the Tyrnavos Pot Still Distillers Association are mobilising to protest against an unacceptable decision by the ND government to issue a circular imposing a EUR 1 000 fine on shops using the names 'tsipouro' or 'tsikoudia' for the sale of the produce of pot still distillers (winegrowers with the right to distil and small-scale pot still distillers).

This development comes in the wake of the Commission's answer to my previous question No. E-002329/2019 which stated that it 'does not share the view that small distillers will inevitably disappear as a consequence of the correct implementation of the legislation.'

The circular implementing the EU guidelines seeks to satisfy the requirements and interests of the alcoholic drinks industry and wholesalers who have managed, under the responsibility of previous governments (SYRIZA, PASOK), to secure the terms 'tsipouro' and 'tsikoudia' exclusively for their products.

Since the use of the specific names for the products of pot still distillers is safeguarded as customary usage and is not expressly prohibited by the legislation currently in force (M.D. 91354 / 2017 and Law 2969/2001), will the Commission say:

1. How does it consider the above arbitrary prohibition of the names 'tsipouro' and 'tsikoudia' and measures to ensure that they can be used exclusively for the bottled products of the beverages industry?
2. How does it view the impact the arbitrary ban will have on the income of the 6 000 pot still distillers and the approximately 30 000 small-scale wine growers?