

**Question for written answer E-004379/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christophe Hansen (PPE)**

**Subject:** Registration and payment of excise duties and VAT on the sale of small amounts of wine to private customers within the EU

The European wine sector is currently facing an unprecedented crisis due to the slump in sales in Asia and the USA and the closure of restaurants and bars. While the exceptional measures taken by the Commission are certainly welcome, it is paramount to give wine producers opportunities to increase intra-EU sales. Unfortunately, current rules make it difficult for small wine producers to sell small amounts of wine to private customers in other Member States. The need to register and pay excise duties and VAT makes it necessary to work with costly tax accountants and creates a huge administrative burden. At a time when the EU is promoting oenotourism using public money, the fact that wine-growers face such huge barriers to exporting their goods to other EU countries is incomprehensible.

1. Does the Commission plan to make changes to Regulation 2008/118/CE regarding the general arrangements for excise duties?
2. Could an online one-stop shop for customs and VAT matters be part of the solution for improving intra-EU distance sales and what would be the maximum quantity of wine authorised for sale under this simplified procedure?