

**Question for written answer E-005330/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Small and medium-sized winegrowers excluded from authorisations for new vine plantings

The average size of holdings used for viniculture in Greece is almost 12.5 hectares/holding. The EU, ever faithful to its policy of hitting small and medium-sized farmers where it hurts the most, is providing all the 'tools' governments need to hurt organic winegrowers even more.

In the context of the application of Regulations (EU) Nos 1308/2013, 2018/273 and 2018/274 for vine plantings for the year 2020, the Greek Government authorised almost exclusively the expansion of holdings of over 75 hectares, which account for no more than 2% of total holdings.

By way of example, based on the Greek Government's Ministerial Decision 866/86629/15-4-2020, in the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, 35% of the total number of holdings of over 200 hectares were authorised to expand, which according to EUROSTAT figures for 2016 correlates to no more than 20 out of a total of 2 500 holdings in the region.

As a result, tens of thousands of small and medium-sized holdings in Greece, which account for over 95% of total holdings and operate over 85% of total vine areas, were denied access to authorisations for new vine plantings. Only in cases where large holdings were not interested in new authorisations were small and medium-sized holdings given access.

What is the Commission's position on the exclusion of small and medium-sized winegrowers in Greece from accessing authorisations for new vine plantings in 2020, which stems both from EU legislation and from the unacceptable decisions of the Greek Government?