

**Question for written answer E-005457/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Paolo De Castro (S&D)

Subject: Examination procedure regarding the import of Tequila into the EU

In August, the Commission opened an examination procedure under Regulation (EU) 2015/1843 on possible obstacles to the import of Tequila from Mexico into the European Union, following the failure of the Consejo Regulador del Tequila (CRT) – the body responsible for monitoring and protecting the geographical indication ‘Tequila’ – to grant export certificates to a producer.

The product in question, which had been authorised for retail sale as such and not for use as an ingredient, had instead been adulterated by the European purchaser in order to ‘reproduce’ a flavouring, and was subsequently used by a third party as an ingredient in a beer.

Given that ‘Tequila’ is a geographical indication recognised in 120 countries, including the EU – under the 1997 Spirits Agreement and its registration within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2019/787 – and that the procedure in question could have a negative impact on geographical indications, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How does it intend to consider the implications of the procedure in relation to the agreements in force and the credibility of the European system of geographical indications?
2. How does it intend to safeguard the principle of the integrity of the system of control of geographical indications, which is crucial in order to protect consumers from misleading commercial practices?