

Question for written answer E-001412/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Extraordinary measures to support the wine industry

A year after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the social and economic outlook remains somewhat uncertain. The economic consequences of the crisis have hit every sector indiscriminately, including the farming sector and specifically the wine industry.

In the first 10 months of 2020, wine exports fell by EUR 1.39 billion in comparison with the same period in 2019.

The closure of bars, restaurants and the hotel and catering industry as a whole caused exports to fall by 3.4% in 2020 in relation to 2019, and prices fell by 7.5%.

As the world's leading global wine producer and its second-largest exporter, Italy suffered incalculable losses. At the end of January 2021, it had 61 million hectolitres in wine stocks.

In the light of these figures, does the Commission plan:

1. To take practical action to mitigate these economic consequences for the wine sector by making extraordinary funds available?
2. To properly compensate and support Italian and European producers by introducing distillation and storage measures for private stocks?