

**Question for written answer E-004341/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: Croatian prošek and the Tocai case

The Commission has given the go-ahead to an application for geographic protection for Croatian prošek, a sweet still wine whose name can be mistaken for Italian prosecco.

This is a decision that, in addition to confusing consumers, could jeopardise the production and sale of the product from Veneto, which has long since been a firm favourite on foreign markets. In fact, latest estimates put figures for export sales in the first quarter of 2021 at 120 million bottles, a rise of 17 %. In the sparkling wine sector, prosecco is the product with the biggest share of the worldwide export market (approximately 33 %), ahead of cava (14 %) and champagne (11 %).

Furthermore, this recent EU decision would go against the judgment handed down by the Court of Justice in 2005 in the Tocai case, which established the ban on using the designation 'Tocai' for certain Italian wines. The Court stated that when a third-country geographical indication is a homonym of the name of a vine variety used to designate Community wines, the latter must cease to be used.

In light of that judgment, and given that the Croatian and Italian products are clearly homonyms:

1. How does the Commission justify its decision to give the go-ahead for Croatian prošek?
2. Is this not clearly at odds with the Tocai judgment?