

Question for written answer E-004440/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Risk for EU funding for the promotion of wine in third countries

The World Health Organisation and the Commission, through documents entitled 'Global strategy on alcoholics' and 'European beating cancer plan', have made a commitment to draw a clear distinction between alcohol abuse and moderate alcohol consumption.

To date, however, this distinction has not been applied in the two documents and alcohol consumption is becoming synonymous with abuse and 'always harmful' to human health.

Unless fundamental changes are made to the documents, the demonisation of the entire wine sector would be exacerbated. The dichotomy in relation to EU policies which can be summed up as the 'European way of life' would also be increased, since wine, for many countries, including Italy, is synonymous with a Mediterranean diet, culture and history, all of which have been handed down for more than 2 000 years.

Furthermore, the WHO strategy recommends a 20% reduction in global alcohol consumption by 2030 and suggests that this should be achieved both through a system of new taxes and by applying a minimum price strategy per product category.

In view of this, can the Commission say whether:

1. it does not agree that the strategies listed in the above documents run counter to the primary sector incentive measures;
2. there is a risk that funds for the promotion of wine in third countries might be cut?