

**Question for written answer E-000141/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Protecting Italian wine from alarmist labelling

The European Commission has authorised Ireland to add alarmist labelling to wine bottles. The Commission had a six-month standstill period to oppose Dublin's proposal that all alcoholic beverages sold in Ireland display the warnings 'alcohol causes liver disease' and 'there is a direct link between alcohol and fatal cancers', but that period has expired.

The draft law could have negative effects on an entire sector, especially in Member States such as Italy, and it could be interpreted as a barrier to trade equivalent to a quantitative restriction that undermines the single market, prohibited by Article 34 TFEU.¹

Moreover, the Irish proposal does not distinguish between spirits (such as whisky or vodka) and wine, and actually treats them in the same way, despite the fact that the nutritional values of wine and spirits are very different and wine has a much lower level of alcohol.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission explain why it did not oppose the Irish proposal, despite the European Parliament's opposition to it?
2. If it does not reconsider its position on this matter, how will it make up for the economic losses and damage to the reputation of the wine industry, a strategic Italian and European sector?

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¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12008E034:EN:HTML>.