

**Question for written answer E-000427/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Health warnings on wine labels

The Commission has not yet raised any objection to Ireland's proposed regulations for health warning labels on alcohol. Product labels' primary function is to give consumers accurate information, and harmonised rules on labelling are essential to the proper functioning of the internal market. Wine-growing plays a vital role by providing jobs and sustainability in rural areas with few alternatives. Wine is a natural product and a fundamental part of European civilisation, and the Mediterranean diet also includes moderate wine consumption.

There is a substantial difference between moderate consumption and excessive/harmful consumption of any product. The way forward is through educating people and tackling excessive/harmful consumption.

1. Does the Commission believe that the Irish Government's unilateral proposal – should it be put into practice – could pose an obstacle to wines from other Member States entering the Irish market?
2. Will the Commission carry out an ex ante assessment of the Irish Government's proposal and any revisions to labelling rules that the Commission may propose?
3. Would it not be more suitable for the Commission to reinforce an EU-wide policy that provides consumers with information and guidance?

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