

**Question for written answer E-000700/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ladislav Ilčić (ECR)

Subject: Prošek

Since 2013, a dispute has been ongoing between Italy and Croatia concerning the use of the name 'prošek', which is the name of an authentic, centuries-old and traditional Croatian dessert wine made from raisined grapes (the first written mention of which dates as far back as the 18th century) with protected designation of origin. This wine's production is limited to Croatia's coastal region, and it is produced in small quantities (20 hectolitres per year) intended primarily for the Croatian domestic market. It is therefore exceedingly clear that 'prošek' does not constitute either a new name or a new product.

The whole case, which arose from repeated Italian attempts to ban the use of the name 'prošek', is based on the Italian party's position that the use of the name 'prošek' harms the reputation of their 'prosecco' wine. This is in spite of the fact that these are clearly two distinct wines, with 'prošek' being a dessert wine and 'prosecco' a sparkling wine. They also differ in appearance, in category and in the different occasions at which they are consumed. They are therefore unlikely to confuse consumers.

At the end of October 2021, representatives of the EP's AGRI Committee exchanged views on this dispute with Commission representatives.

Could the Commission please say what the state of play is of the procedure for a Croatian application for recognition of the traditional 'prošek' designation?

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