

ORAL QUESTION H-0949/01
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2002
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Jaime Valdivielso de Cué
to the Commission

Subject: Wine

With reference to the statements made by Argentina's ambassador to the EU on 28 November 2001 to the effect that he is not prepared to discuss the trade name Rioja (meaning the Argentinian Rioja), the use of which is clearly damaging to Spain's Rioja designation of origin since it usurps the latter's commercial rights, what action is the Commission going to take in order to put a stop to this illegal profiteering from the Spanish term's commercial standing?

How is Argentinian Rioja wine to be prevented from reaching the EU's markets?

A 20% tariff is currently levied on EU wine, whereas wine from the Mercosur countries attracts a tariff of only 5%.

Within what period of time is a more equitable arrangement going to be found, and what form might it take?

Tabled: 30.11.2001
es