

ORAL QUESTION H-0637/02  
for Question Time at the part-session in October 2002  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Jaime Valdivielso de Cué  
to the Commission

Subject: Protection of designations of origin for wines in the United States

The end of 2003 will see the expiry of the 'wine agreement' between the European Union and the United States which is in place pending attempts to settle differences concerning the recognition of wine production methods and wine names between the two trading partners.

The United States continues to consider a series of names protected in the European Union as 'semi-generic', which means that US producers are authorised to use, with total impunity, designations such as 'Malaga' or 'sherry' in the case of Spain.

The negotiations which the Commission is conducting with a view to stopping such practices do not seem to be achieving any success. Can the Commission say whether there have been any developments in the negotiations and whether it intends to take advantage of the expiry of the current agreement to convince the United States to sign a proper agreement for the mutual recognition of designations of origin, following the example of South Africa or Chile?

Tabled: 10.09.2002  
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