

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2977/01
by Werner Langen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Deliveries of Sekt (German sparkling wine) to Greece and Italy

A German Sekt producer intending to deliver 2900 boxes of Sekt to Italy and 1000 boxes to Greece was informed by the Association of German Sekt Producers and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce that such a transaction would be covered throughout Europe by the simplified customs procedure, requiring the firm to be in possession of only the AAD (accompanying administrative document) and the T2. This was also confirmed by German customs. However, the Greek authorities caused tremendous difficulties for the intended customer by demanding he produce alcohol retail licences and various import licences. With reference to unspecified EU regulations, the Sekt producer was informed that if the customer did not comply with the required procedures, the goods would not be released for sale in Greece. The consignment to Italy was also obstructed by demands for additional licences. The authorities demanding the additional licences are known to the author of this question.

What documentation, forms and/or licences are required to carry out such a transaction? Are the Greek and Italian authorities' requirements contrary to internal market rules and simply an attempt to protect their markets? What options are open to the Commission for taking action against any possibly unlawful conduct by the Greek and Italian authorities, and what measures does it intend to take, if appropriate?

As the stipulated deadline for delivery of the goods in question is 1 November 2001, I would ask the Commission to respond as promptly as possible to this question.