

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5048/07
by Bogdan Golik (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Reform of the COM in wine

The Commission proposal for a regulation on the common organisation of the market in wine (COM(2007)372) makes no provision for the use of the name 'wine' on the labels of products other than wine made from grapes.

The current regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999¹) authorises the use of the name of a fruit together with the word 'wine', or the term 'fruit wine', as a product sales name.

Why did the Commission not include this provision in the proposal for a regulation?

Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 itself did not initially provide for the use of the word 'wine' on the labels of products other than wine made from grapes. This omission was, however, rectified by Council Regulation (EC) No 2585/2001².

In connection with the labelling of fruit wines, all changes likely to give rise to uncertainty are to be avoided. Wines made from fruits such as apples or currants are placed on the market under the name 'fruit wine' or the word 'wine' together with the name of the fruit used and have been well established on the European market for many years. Consumers have long been accustomed to sales names such as 'fruit wine' and 'apple wine'. Under no circumstances must fruit wines be treated as fringe products that are a special case and may be omitted from the labelling provisions set out in the proposal for a Council directive.

Given that the name vodka may be used for spirits produced from non-traditional raw materials (i.e. materials other than cereals and potatoes), a similar arrangement should apply to the sales names used for wine produced from raw materials other than grapes.

¹ OJ L 179, 14.7.1999, p. 1.

² OJ L 345, 29.12.2001, p. 10.