

**Question for written answer P-9349/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Marielle Gallo (PPE)

Subject: EU-India free trade agreement negotiations: protecting the interests of European wine and spirits industries

Access to the Indian wines and spirits market is highly protected. Customs duties on these products are 150 %, to which VAT and the various local excise duties must be added. The result of this excessive taxation is that imported products cost the consumer up to six times the product's basic value and means that foreign wines and spirits end up being sold only in duty free shops.

Considering the huge potential of the Indian wines and spirits market (it is already the world's leading whisky market, for example) and the opportunities it represents for European industry, does the Commission believe that wines and spirits should be part of the free trade agreement currently being negotiated between India and the EU?

If so, what proposals have already been made or could still be made (for example, gradual reduction of customs duties) in an effort to persuade Indian authorities to include wines and spirits in this agreement?