**Question for written answer P-001819/2014**
**to the Commission**
Rule 117
**José Bové (Verts/ALE)**

Subject:     The use of traditional vines to aid climate change adaptation

The Commission report entitled 'Adapting to climate change: the challenge for European agriculture and rural areas' recommends, among other measures, 'choosing crops and varieties better adapted to the expected length of the growing season and water availability, and more resistant to new conditions of temperature and humidity'.

Traditional wine-producing regions are already feeling the effects of these changes, which the members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) say will take on a whole new dimension in coming years.

Some vines are more resistant to climate change than others. This is the case with traditional vines, whose extraordinary robustness is the result of both their genetic identity and their capacity to cope with acid soil. These robust vines (direct producer hybrids) were introduced in France in the 19th century following the mildew and powdery mildew epidemics which decimated many vines.

Article 81(2)(b) (concerning wine grape varieties) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 repealing, among others, Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 prohibits the planting, replanting or grafting for wine-production purposes of certain grape varieties (Clinton, Noah, Jacquez, Herbemont, Othello and Isabelle). However, in including this provision, the regulation is inconsistent with the European objectives in the area of climate change adaptation. French Decree No 2003-851 abolished the 1934 law which had established the list of prohibited vines.

1.   Given that scientific studies dating back almost 15 years do not point to any plant health problems, can the Commission say why the ban in Article 81(2)(b) of the aforementioned regulation has been maintained?

2.   Does the Commission intend to authorise the cultivation of traditional vines in order to       help the wine-producing sector better adapt to climate change?