

**Question for written answer P-003034/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Iva Zanicchi (PPE)

Subject: Clarification on the marketing of coloured 'sambuca' drinks, with particular reference to the law on compound terms

In its answer to question E-012362/2013 the Commission stated that the marketing of coloured products bearing the name 'sambuca' is contrary to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 on the description, presentation, and labelling of spirit drinks.

However, according to the Commission's interpretation, the regulation does allow the word 'sambuca' to be used in compound terms ('strawberry sambuca', for example), provided that the alcohol originates entirely from the spirit drink referred to (in this case from anise, the basic constituent of sambuca liqueur). This interpretation is further supported by Regulation (EU) No 716/2013, which is due to enter into force on 1 March 2015.

In the light of the foregoing, and with particular reference to the law on compound terms, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. When it drew up the above provisions, how far did the Commission allow for the fact that the traditional sambuca production method uses alcohol distilled from other ingredients (potato, marc, grain) as well as anise and that if sambuca were made only with alcohol produced from anise, it would be undrinkable?
2. How will it make Member States ensure compliance with the rules on compound terms until Regulation (EU) No 716/2013 has entered into force?
3. Can the rules on compound terms be considered applicable when essential defining characteristics of protected drinks – the colourlessness of sambuca being one example – are turned on their head?