Subject: Protecting the traditional ‘prošek’ designation

Prošek is a traditional dessert wine produced in Dalmatia from naturally dried grapes, and its production goes back to an era before the occurrence of phylloxera, peronospora and uncinula necator.

Italian winemakers produce several varieties of wine from the prosecco varietal, which have almost nothing in common in terms of production, quality, value, or categorisation with Croatian prošek. The only similarity is in the name, but if we listen a little more carefully to the pronunciation of both words, we see that there is no real similarity there either.

The EU’s decision not to recognise the ‘prošek’ designation is jeopardising the production of this traditional wine. It is unprofitable for a winemaker to produce this extremely valuable wine if he cannot sell it under its true ‘prošek’ designation, and if it is sold as dessert wine, it loses its identity and disappears.

For these reasons, only a few winemakers in the region of Dalmatia produce prošek, but only in small quantities and primarily for their own needs.

Winemakers from Dalmatia have expressed their agreement with a potential compromise on the ‘prošek’ designation, under which prošek wine from Dalmatia could in future be called ‘Dalmatian prošek’.

What is the Commission’s position on the possibility of relaunching the process for recognising the traditional ‘prošek’ designation?