Priority question for written answer P-002724/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Online wine sales

The wine sector is currently experiencing its worst crisis in recent decades as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. The fall in turnover faced by many producers in France is over 70%. Their losses have not been offset by retail or online sales because of the changes in the consumption patterns exhibited by people in Europe.

Long-distance intra-EU sales from producer to consumer are subject to long, complex administrative procedures for tax purposes, and this slows down online trade, particularly for SMEs. In the current situation of confinement and the disruption in the hospitality networks (hotels, restaurants, cafes), there is an urgent need to review the existing standards in order to facilitate intra-community online sales from businesses to consumers by installing a ‘mini one-stop shop’ for the declaration and payment of excise on wine, similar to that used for VAT.

1. What is the Commission’s opinion on this matter?

2. Is it considering putting such a system in place post haste in order to make the sale of wine within the single market viable?