Priority question for written answer P-003488/2023 to the Commission

Rule 138 Elena Lizzi (ID)

Subject: European Commission guidelines on implementing the new EU wine labelling provisions

On 25 October and 28 November 2023, the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development raised a series of concerns as to implementation of the new EU wine labelling provision. Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 (FIC Regulation) states that mandatory food information shall be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and, where appropriate, indelible.

Since wines placed on the market as of 8 December 2023 must display this information, producers have included a QR code on the label identified with the registered ISO 2760 symbol '(i)', which is universally understood to denote a place where information can be found.

On 24 November, two weeks before the entry into force of the regulation, the Commission issued explanatory guidelines on the new wine labelling provisions stating that the ISO 2760 '(i)' symbol is not sufficiently clear to the consumer and that the QR code should be indicated with the longer word 'ingredients'.

Given the above:

- 1. Is the Commission aware that the millions of labels already printed will have to be destroyed, imposing a burden on the wine sector and causing environmental damage?
- 2. Could an exemption be granted for wines that have already been labelled, such as the sweet wines Recioto di Soave or Valpolicella, Picolit or Ramandolo?

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