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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Katerina Batzeli, María Isabel Salinas García and Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the EU-US wine agreement

**European Parliament resolution on the EU-US wine agreement**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Council Regulation No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine,
  - having regard to the bilateral agreement initialled by the European Union and the United States on 14 September 2005 on trade in wine,
  - having regard to the agricultural chapter of the ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organisation,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas this first agreement between the EU and the United States, which has been concluded after two decades of fruitless negotiations, has only minimal scope and does not deal satisfactorily with all the issues relevant to the bilateral trade in wine, which will be the subject of a second round of agreements,
- B. whereas the bilateral agreement still has to be ratified, inter alia by the United States Congress,
- C. whereas mutual, unreserved recognition of wine-making processes has harmful effects on the European wine-growing industry,
- D. whereas the question of protecting geographical indications of origin will still be on the agenda for future negotiations and whereas future restrictions on the use of Community geographical indications by United States producers will not be applied to any person, or to his legal successor, who was already using a Community geographical indication before the date set in the agreement,
- E. whereas the United States does not authorise protection of wines with a designation of origin, and regards them merely as semi-generic products on its domestic markets,
- F. having regard to the crisis affecting some European regions, which is due to a fall in demand and a rise in imports from third countries, as well as to the restructurations that have taken place in some European regions,
- G. whereas most of the wines which have a designation of origin are produced using costly traditional processes and adhering to strict standards of quality, and whereas these processes cannot be compared to the industrial processes used in making American wines, which exist alongside the wines bearing European designations of origin,
1. Welcomes the agreement on this subject, which has been reached after 20 years of negotiation, while at the same time expressing its disappointment at the insufficient

outcome of this first phase of the negotiations, which is giving rise to doubts among farmers and in the European wine-growing industry;

2. Calls on the Commission to do what is necessary, during the next phase of the negotiations, to guarantee protection of the products regarded as semi-generic on United States markets;
3. Agrees with the need for a bilateral agreement between the EU and the United States on trade in wine, and hopes that the next phase of the negotiations will result in a satisfactory outcome for traditional production methods and the quality of our wines;
4. Calls on the Commission to speed up the start of the next phase of negotiations, which is provided for in the agreement with the United States, above all with a view to recognition of the 17 designations of origin listed in its Annex II, so that all the European designations of origin for wine are duly protected by the American authorities on their own market as soon as possible;
5. Calls on the European Commission, in the framework of the World Trade Organisation negotiations, to intensify talks on the establishment of an internationally recognised register of geographical designations and to make this objective one of its main priorities in the multilateral agricultural negotiations;
6. Urgently requests the European Commission to promote the negotiation, at international level, of a binding definition of wine, so as to curb the development of certain wine-making practices, with a view to protecting the quality achieved in the European Union, and to avoid unfair competition with Community producers and market imbalances;
7. Considers it essential to reinforce Community support measures for improving and promoting the quality of Community production in the framework of the next reform of the common organisation of the market, with a view to meeting the growing competition from third countries;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.