Question for written answer E-001615/2019 to the Commission Rule 130 José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (PPE)

Subject: The chaptalisation paradox

The addition of alcohol of grapevine origin to a 'wine' is not an authorised oenological practice for category 1 ('wine') of the 17 grapevine product categories in Part II of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013; if such alcohol were to be added to a wine, the latter would no longer fall under Category 1, but could be included in category 3 ('liqueur wine').

However, according to the interpretation provided by the Commission in its reply to question E-004165/2018, the product obtained through the fermentation of must or wine with sucrose should be considered as 'wine', without taking into account the manifest contradiction of this practice with the definition of 'wine'.

It is a clear paradox, since chaptalisation means, ultimately, increasing the natural alcoholic strength of wine by means of alcohol from sucrose.

Does the Commission agree that it is necessary to eliminate this contradiction in EU legislation as well as the right to use sucrose in the fermentation of must, by removing that practice from Section B, Part I, of Annex VIII to said Regulation, or by not allowing its use in category 1 in accordance with Article 80(1) of that Regulation, and instead including chaptalised wines in a new, eighteenth, category of grapevine products?

1181633.EN PE 637.003