

**Question for written answer E-001625/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Manolis Kefalogiannis (PPE)

Subject: Problems regarding Macedonian products arising from the Prespa Agreement

Against the will of the overwhelming majority of its people, the Greek Parliament has ratified the Prespa Agreement recognising the 'Macedonian' identity, nationality and language' of Skopje.

This agreement also calls into question the status of my country's renowned and successful products recognised globally under the 'Macedonian' trade name.

For example, Skopje decided to participate in the ProWein Trade Fair in Dusseldorf as a member of the 'Association Wines of Macedonia' in order to promote and raise awareness of the 'Macedonian Wine' brand name, causing considerable confusion in an attempt to mislead consumers.

At the same time, Northern Greek businesses have been encountering problems in China regarding the use of the term 'Macedonia' and its derivatives without Skopje's consent.

In view of this:

- (1) What steps is the Commission taking to strengthen EU laws regarding intellectual property rights, including trademarks, Macedonian products, and product information provided to EU consumers?
- (2) Can the Commission confirm that the text of the EU-China trade agreement, which will be brought to the European Parliament for approval after the conclusion of negotiations, will grant Greek wine producers the exclusive right to use the term 'Macedonian' as a geographical designation of origin?