

**Question for written answer P-001434/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Manolis Kefalogiannis (PPE)

Subject: Rules issued by the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR) threatening the production of the Greek spirits tsikoudia and tsipouro

A few days ago, on 13 March 2019, the plenary voted in favour of a number of amendments, including those by the Greek MEP, Manolis Kefalogiannis, to the regulation on the labelling of spirit drinks, which specifically protect existing geographical indications and also the specific features of the alcoholic beverages sector, including tsikoudia and tsipouro, which are part of Greek tradition.

However, circular No 6ZZK46MP3Z-B9Z of 28 February 2019 by the Greek Independent Authority for Public Revenue has caused great consternation among small Greek traditional distilleries of tsikoudia and tsipouro because it violates the principle of proportionality since it disproportionately affects their interests by requiring the removal of the words 'tsikoudia / tsipouro' and their replacement by the word 'distillate'.

Given that such provisions pose a threat to the domestic production of these spirits, will the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of the above? Do these provisions derive from any obligations of Greece vis-à-vis the EU?
2. Does it consider that the ban on the indication 'tsikoudia-tsipouro' on products obtained by shopkeepers from small producers will protect the consumer from being misled?
3. What measures will it take to protect and develop the tsikoudia and tsipouro production sector in Greece?