

EFOW - the European Federation of Origin Wines - is the European organisation that represents wines with an Appellation of Origin (PDO) and wines with a Geographical Indication (PGI). Our members - CNAOC (France), HNT (Hungary), FEDERDOC (Italy), CECRV (Spain) and IVDP (Portugal) - represent 85% of the quality wine production in the EU.

Wine is one of Europe agriculture's success stories

For generations, European wine makers have produced quality wines which have become the envy of the world.

The EU wine sector in figures (2015)^[1]

- World's leading producer of wine at more than 160 million hl, representing over 60% of world production
- Approximately 3.2 million ha of area under vines (45% of the world's total) and 2.5 million agricultural holdings grow vines.
- Wine growing Member States: Spain, France and Italy (which together account for more than 75% of the EU area under vines), Portugal, Romania, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Cyprus, the United Kingdom and Luxembourg
- Up to 83% of the EU vine area dedicated to the production of quality wines (GI wines: PDO & PGI). One could say that without GI wines there is no European viticulture.
- Nearly 10 billion euros of export outside the EU; a very positive effect on the EU trade balance (over 6 billion euros)
- European wine is by far the largest EU agricultural export and it is expected to continue growing in the coming years (2018 EU Agricultural Outlook Conference report ^[2]).

The European wine sector is the example of a modern, value-added business rooted in a skill-rich tradition which cannot be outsourced or imitated on the cheap. Its current model of production supports a network of small, often family-owned businesses and provides key jobs directly and indirectly in rural areas. There is just no alternative to wine production in many regions across the EU. Add to that the thousands of jobs generated through oenotourism and you begin to see a more complete picture of the sector's contribution to the economy.

For centuries, wine-making has been a way of life in parts of Europe. It's a tradition; part of a common culture and heritage. It's a long-term labour, requiring passion and detailed knowledge of land use, grape varieties, science and business.

This expertise has been handed-down and honed in wine-growing communities where people take pride in the process and the product. Many of Europe's wine regions are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, offering unique environments and fostering biodiversity.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/dashboards/wine-dashboard_en.pdf

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/medium-term-outlook-2018-report_en.pdf



The European Parliament has played a decisive role in supporting the development of the wine sector



Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, the European Parliament (EP) is a co-legislator in the area of agriculture. These new rights have given the European Parliament a very important role in defining the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

MEPs have cleverly used EP's new powers to stop ill-conceived initiatives and to propose new wine policy rules. This has been the case in the framework of the 2013 CAP reform, the 2017 Omnibus regulation, the Lisbonisation and simplification of the wine sector's rules through Delegated and Implementing Acts and, more recently, the reform of the CAP post-2020. The European Parliament's support has been essential in promoting the sustainable development of the wine sector, supporting in particular the vine planting authorisation scheme.

The European Parliament's role has been determinant in helping the wine sector to deliver on its commitment to better inform consumers on nutritional and ingredients information through a series of amendments that have been tabled in the context of the CAP reform.

The EP also played a major role in securing a greater protection of GI wines outside of the EU through international trade negotiations. It has supported the inclusion of a chapter on GIs in all trade agreements and called for a high level of GI protection to be delivered. Positive results have been secured for our sector in many important foreign markets such as Canada, Japan, Mexico and Vietnam.

Quality (GI) wine producers need the support of the future European Parliament

The next European Parliament will have a major say in key decisions that will affect the EU wine sector.

The multiannual financial framework 2021-2027

GI wine producers call on MEPs to support a well-funded Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to guarantee the livelihood of Europe's rural areas and the competitiveness of European agriculture on the world stage.

The new CAP post-2020

The EP and the Council have to agree on the new CAP post-2020 now that the European Commission has tabled its proposals on the matter. Work has started under the 2014-2019 legislature with many positive amendments adopted by the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament which need to be supported by in a vote in plenary session of the EP.

Viticulture and more particularly GI wines, are doing well and remain thriving in a context of agricultural crisis and international trade tensions. This is the result of targeted instruments for the wine sector which are part of the current CAP.

GI wine producers want the existing specific wine-related instruments to be maintained and improved in the future CAP. EFOW counts on MEPs to defend the continuation of wine national support programmes and of specific budget allocations for the wine sector. We also call on promotion measures in third countries to be extended as wine producers need more time to develop and consolidate their markets. Our competitors from the new world have understood this well.



GI wines benefit from specific quality policy rules which are one of the pillars of their success.

EFOW calls on MEPs to strengthen the quality policy component of the CAP reform. It is key to maintain a solid definition of the Protected Denomination of Origin concept which does not call into question the essential role that men play in the production of our origin wines. We must also be in a position to better defend ourselves against usurpers who wish to weaken and dilute the reputation of our products. That is why we need MEPs to support the introduction of stricter measures on the use of our wines as an ingredient and clearer rules on the protection of our names on the Internet and when goods are in transit in the EU. We also ask for the simplification of procedures at the EU level to allow us to modify our GI specifications in a more efficient way.



The planting authorisation scheme that was introduced in 2016 plays a crucial role in the positive development of our sector.

EFOW urges MEPs to support the amendments to the European Commission proposals adopted by the Agriculture Committee of the EP (Eric Andrieu report) that would provide for the planting authorisation scheme to be extended until 2050. This production potential management tool is essential to support the growth of the vineyard in line with the development of markets and to maintain quality wine production.

The European Commission has proposed the creation of two new industrial wine categories: de-alcoholised and non-alcoholised wines.

EFOW calls on the European Parliament to reject these new categories. Non-alcoholic wine beverages have been on the market for many years, but they are not considered currently as wines. This is absolutely right as they are processed industrial products which require flavouring in addition to sweetening to give them a drinkable character. They can continue to exist and grow but they should not be considered as an agricultural product eligible for support under the agricultural budget.



An important work has been done by the wine sector with the support of the European Parliament towards better information of consumers.

EFOW counts on the continuing support of the future MEPs of the amendments adopted by the Agriculture Committee (Eric Andrieu report) that would provide for the labelling of calories and ingredients for the wine.

Trade negotiations with third countries

The European Commission is currently negotiating several trade agreements that are important for the future of the wine sector.

EFOW hopes that MEPs will continue to support better market access and better protection of our GI wines in third countries, in particular in the Mercosur region, China, Australia and New Zealand.

European Parliament Wine intergroup

Since its creation in 1994, the European Parliament cross-party Wine Intergroup has proved to be a very important fora to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the wine sector.

EFOW calls on MEPs to mobilise in favour of its re-establishment under the next legislature.