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Session document

28.9.2005

B6-0489/2005 }
B6-0511/2005 }
B6-0514/2005 }
B6-0515/2005 }
B6-0516/2005 }
B6-0517/2005 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 103(4) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- María Esther Herranz García, Christa Klaß, Astrid Lulling and Giuseppe Castiglione, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- María Isabel Salinas García, Vincenzo Lavarra and Katerina Batzeli, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Anne Laperrouze, Niels Busk, Willem Schuth, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis and Ignasi Guardans Cambó, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Marie-Hélène Aubert and Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Ilda Figueiredo and Marco Rizzo, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Sergio Berlato, Roberta Angelilli and Sebastiano (Nello) Musumeci, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B6-0489/2005)
- PSE (B6-0511/2005)
- ALDE (B6-0514/2005)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0515/2005)
- UEN (B6-0516/2005)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0517/2005)

on the EU-US wine agreement

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PE 361.909v01-00}
PE 361.940v01-00}
PE 361.943v01-00}
PE 361.944v01-00}
PE 361.945v01-00}
PE 361.946v01-00} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the EU-US wine agreement

The European Parliament,

- 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 Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine,
 - having regard to the Framework Agreement between the Commission and Parliament stipulating that, in connection with international trade agreements, the Commission shall provide early and clear information to Parliament both during the phase of preparation of the agreements and during the conduct and conclusion of international negotiations, including draft negotiating directives, the adopted negotiating directives, the subsequent conduct of negotiations and the conclusion of the negotiations,
 - having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas political and economic relations are the bedrock of EU-US relations, the scope of which is constantly widening,
- B. 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,
- C. whereas the bilateral agreement still has to be ratified, inter alia by the United States Congress,
- D. having regard to the negative consequences of the unrestricted mutual recognition of oenological procedures for the European wine industry,
- E. whereas the wrongful use of EU geographical indications of origin by third countries violates intellectual property rights and causes economic harm to the legitimate holders of the designations on account of loss of market share,
- F. whereas the legal framework of geographical indications is an important element in EU policies, recognising as it does the importance of multifunctional agriculture and the social and environmental impact of wine production in mountainous areas and disadvantaged regions,
- G. whereas false designations often provide stiff competition for genuine designations; whereas

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the United States does not respect the protection of wines with a designation of origin, and regards them merely as semi-generic products on its domestic markets,

- H. whereas the wine sector in Europe offers a major source of employment and income from small family farms and small wine enterprises, based on the territorial approach of European wine policies,
- I. having regard to the deviation from the previous line for bilateral agreements and from the idea of an international standard for wine and manufacturing put forward by the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV),
- J. 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,
- K. whereas this agreement would set a precedent in terms of the WTO most-favoured-nation clause,
- L. having regard to the disadvantages caused by the definition of the term 'wine' on the European wine market for special wines,
 - 1. Notes that this bilateral agreement, reached after 20 years of negotiation, is necessary if it helps to ensure exports to the United States, which constitutes the principal market for EU wine makers, to restore a climate of trust and to ensure the smooth flow of trade;
 - 2. 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, family-based wine making and the quality of our wines; emphasises that the agreement constitutes merely an initial, insufficient and inadequate step towards international recognition of the EU's protected traditional names;
 - 3. Criticises the Commission for having agreed to a bilateral deal with the US without informing Parliament in sufficient time for it to be able to express its point of view and for the Commission to be able to take Parliament's views into account, as laid down in Article 19 of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission (2005/2076(ACI));
 - 4. Draws attention to the repercussions that the new agreement could have for EU wine trade policy and its possible consequences for traditional models of production, which form the basis of the recognition of Community quality policy;
 - 5. Deplores the fact that this agreement will substantially weaken the EU's position in the negotiations on agriculture within the WTO, as it undermines the territorial and quality-oriented approach which is practised in a large part of the wine sector;
 - 6. Calls on the Commission to continue the dialogue with the US and other WTO partners in

order to establish a register of internationally recognised geographical indications as a priority in its multilateral agricultural negotiations, to create a joint committee on wine issues and to clarify wine-making practices, certification and the use of traditional expressions with a view to a second phase of negotiations;

7. 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;
8. Considers necessary the signing of a final compromise within, at the latest, the two years indicated in the bilateral agreement, with a view to putting a stop, once and for all, to the illegal use in the United States of Community designations protected by Community legislation, given the added value they represent to European wine making;
9. Calls for the establishment of a positive list of oenological practices permitted in trade with third countries, in the framework of the OIV and with the aim of making evaluations prior to new authorisations in future;
10. Calls on the Commission to promote immediately the negotiation at international level of a binding definition of wine that would halt the development of certain oenological practices, in order to protect the efforts made to maintain quality in the EU, to avoid Community producers being subjected to unfair competition and to prevent market imbalances;
11. Acknowledges the need for a framework for continued negotiations in the wine sector, in particular in the light of the upcoming reform of the EU common organisation of the market in wine, which is scheduled for 2006;
12. Considers vital the strengthening of Community measures to improve and promote the quality of Community products as part of the next reform of the common organisation of the market, in order to meet the challenge of increased competition from third countries;
13. Considers that it would be useful to have a legal opinion on the compatibility of this bilateral agreement with Community law;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the US Congress.