



The Presidents of the Italian, French &
Spanish Union of Wine Cooperatives

July 5th, 2021

President Ursula von der Leyen
European Commission
Rue de la loi Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Subject: EU wine sector: need of a wake up call for Europe

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, representatives of the three main European countries wine producers, namely Spanish, Italian, and French cooperatives, are joining forces to write you this letter with the hope that our call for help will be heard. We are demanding concrete and lasting actions to be taken so to assure the continuity of the sector and of our product, which best represents the quality of the EU agri-food production and the European way of life.

We are writing to you after many challenging months where, in addition to the several threats that our sector has been facing for years, the consequences of the US tariffs on European wines, Brexit, the Free Trade Agreements between non-EU partners eroded our export opportunities, and contributed to the weakening of the EU wine position in the international arena.

The Covid-19 pandemic has struck all of us by surprise, and to the dreadful health disaster, an economic one is following (Annex I). On top of that, climate change and extreme climatic events are a scary reality that we experience everyday on our fields and no later than April this year, an Arctic-cold wave struck our vineyards jeopardising a large part of production for 2021, worsening even more the already weakened position of the EU wines.

In this very challenging context, we have proven our resilience and endurance, but we are reaching the point of no return. Without a strong plan for the re-launch of the wine sector, the risk for us not to make it is real.

Therefore, we ask:

1. To **extend the crisis measures for the whole of 2021 & 2022**
2. A **multi annual plan** of three years that gives the priority to viticulture with additional economic resources, focusing on:
 - **Exceptional storage and distillation measures** for at least 12 months
 - **Investments in innovation** for assuring the digital and environmental transition, notably on digital and precision viticulture on vineyards and on new breeds thanks to 'New Genomic techniques'
 - **Strengthening the funds dedicated to the promotion** of wine in the domestic and foreign markets
 - **Investments aimed at tackling the water access** challenge and water scarcity

Please find attached a note analysing the situation of the EU wine sector and detailing the urgent actions to be taken in order to overcome the challenges we face.

With the hope that our call will be heard, we remain at your disposal for further exchanges and look forward to urgently having a **working meeting** with your cabinet and relevant Commission departments.

Yours Sincerely,

Luca Rigotti, President of Alleanza delle Cooperative – vino



Boris Calmette, President of La Coopération agricole Vignerons Coopérateurs



Angel Villafranca, Président Cooperatives Agroalimentaires Espagnoles

