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Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.11.2024)

The Commission is aware of the significant challenges the European wine sector is currently facing, due to a long-term decline of domestic consumption, a shift in consumer preferences, and an unstable international context affecting our key export markets. In addition, the sector faces increasingly unpredictable production conditions and harvests due to disasters linked to climate change.

Therefore, a High-Level Group on Wine Policy has been set up with representatives from Member States' authorities as a forum to explore possible solutions to secure its long-term competitiveness and sustainability. Representatives of the major stakeholder organisations were invited to present their assessment of the situation during the first meeting on 11 September 2024, and a discussion on policy options started on 14 October 2024 should conclude on 15 November 2024.

The discussions of the group are centred around policy measures to help the sector navigate the challenges ahead, addressing the management of the production potential, the options to strengthen the resilience of the sector against climate change and to adapt to shifting market trends and harness market opportunities. Sustainability and competitiveness, innovative and sustainable wine-growing practices and measures to strengthen the resilience of the sector against climatic events are important issues in this context.

A document with conclusion and policy recommendations will be presented to stakeholders in the last meeting in December 2024 and made public on the Europa website. This document will inspire future legislative proposals, which will then be subject to discussion by the European Parliament and the Council.