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Answer given by Mr Sikela
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.9.2025)

The Commission's support programme for the transformation of the wines and spirits sector in South Africa (SA) aims at promoting equal opportunities by providing support to small scale and historically disadvantaged farmers, notably through a more equitable access to land and education, training and capacity development of farm workers, black farmers, black-owned brands and other related beneficiaries, such as women and youth in the sector. This commitment originates in the SA-EU Agreement on Trade, Development and Cooperation^{1,2}. The programme is funded under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)³. The reported EUR 15 million funding was committed in 2019 after an approval process (including by Member States in the DCI Committee).

The Commission must fulfil its commitments, with financial disbursements already made as per the agreement with SA. Implementation is ongoing, leading to the launching of a Wine and Spirit fund in June 2025⁴.

Concerning the wine sector within the EU, the Commission remains firmly committed to supporting it. Beyond the significant resources for sectoral interventions already allocated through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Rural Development funds, the Commission has adopted in 2025 a specific legislative proposal⁵ (the 'wine package'), aimed at helping the sector addressing the challenges it confronts and enhancing its resilience, including by further facilitating EU wine trade to third countries.

¹ Annex X: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A21999A1204%2802%29>.

² Council Decision of 26 April 2004 (2004/441/EC): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2004/441/oj/eng>.

³ Legal basis of the DCI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1905/oj/eng>, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/233/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://landbank.co.za/Products-and-Services/Pages/Wine-Spirit-Fund.aspx>.

⁵ Regulation as regards certain market rules and sectoral support measures in the wine sector and for aromatised wine products: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0137>.