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Press Release

Commissioner Andriukaitis meets winegrowers to discuss solutions to consumer information on wine

Today the Commissioner visited the Carcassonne region in South Western France to see first-hand the logistics involved in producing and bottling wine and to discuss with producers about the best way to provide relevant consumer information regarding wine products.

This visit to a wine cooperative, *Foncalieu* and an independent winegrower, *Château La Grave*, comes after the wine sector presented a self-regulatory proposal to the Commission in March this year, committing to a transparent and meaningful way of communicating nutrition information of wine to consumers. Mr Eric Andrieu, French MEP, joined the delegation for the visit of the cooperative in the morning.

During the visit Commissioner Andriukaitis stated: “I asked the sector to develop a self-regulatory proposal aiming to provide the list of ingredients and nutrition information on all alcoholic beverages enabling consumers to make informed choices. I am here to better understand the proposal made by the wine makers. I am committed to work together so we can move forward with a meaningful solution that meets citizens' expectations.”

“We are committed to working with the Commission and the other EU Institutions in order to find a solution that allows us to display meaningful information for consumers while ensuring the competitiveness of our producers. Collaboration is a key word and we are willing to move forward rapidly,” explained Thierry Coste, Chairman of the Copa-Cogeca Wine Working Party.

Thomas Montagne, President of the European Confederation of Independent Winegrowers underlined the importance of the SMEs in the sector: “Micro and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the EU wine sector representing more than 90% of the market. The European wine companies contribute significantly to the social, economic and rural development of many regions across the EU. They are part of the European cultural legacy and provide a diversity of products that are highly appreciated by European consumers. For all these reasons, small winegrowers, deserve to be protected and supported by European policy. It is therefore crucial to develop tools that are both manageable by SMEs and useful and easy to use for consumers”.

-ENDS-

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*EU winegrowers and wine producers are committed to spreading the moderation culture as a part of a balanced and healthy diet. They endorse and support the Wine in Moderation Initiative (www.wineinmoderation.eu), its message and its activities all around the world.