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Press Release

COPA-COGECA RELEASES NEW 2014 EU WINE HARVEST FIGURES SHOWING PRODUCTION DROP AT MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCE

New Copa-Cogeca 2014 wine harvest estimates for the EU-28 released in Brussels today show a sharp 9.9% production drop compared to last year, confirming the need to regulate vine plantings, in order to alleviate the extreme volatility in the wine sector.

Speaking in Brussels at Copa-Cogeca press conference, Mr Thierry Coste, Chairman of Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Wine, said “This years’ harvest is estimated to reach 157.7 million hl, which is 9.9% down on last year’s levels. Due to the different growing conditions in the wine-growing areas, the quality of the grape varied a lot sometimes even in the same region. Figures from the last three years also show very variable harvests which is directly linked to the variable climatic conditions, like drought and floods. This confirms the need to regulate vine plantings for all types of wine in order to keep a balanced wine sector. The new European authorisation scheme for vine plantings goes in the direction of a European model for viticulture , allowing family farms to be maintained at the same as ensuring a dynamic sector.

He continued: “At European level, wine stocks are less than last year and Copa-Cogeca believes that less wine will be available this year. Prices should therefore remain stable, and eventually increase in some production areas in Europe”.

Wrapping up Copa-Cogeca Secretary General Pekka Pesonen highlighted the importance of the EU wine sector, saying the EU is the number one exporter of wine in the world . “To maintain its economic importance, we must therefore defend the interests of wine growers during the upcoming bilateral trade negotiations with the US, China, South Africa and Japan and ensure that the EU system of geographical indications (GIs) which protects European quality produce from imitations is recognised. We are also calling for them to be protected on the internet. The free use of these domain names for example ".vin" or ".wine" could lead to the misuse of the EU system on GIs and could also mislead consumers about the product. We consequently urges the Italian Presidency to act and protect regional specialities and quality produce covered by GIs during negotiations with ICANN, the American corporation in charge of allocating new domain names ”

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