



## Press Release

### **CEVI celebrates its 15 years of influence**

**Brussels, 8 November 2017 - yesterday evening in Brussels, CEVI celebrated its 15 years of commitment to the protection of the Independent Winegrowers of Europe. The 150 guests included numerous MEPs, European Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis and Jerzy Plewa, Director-General of AGRI.**

The European Confederation of Independent Winegrowers (*Confédération Européenne des Vignerons Indépendants*) fittingly celebrated its 15 years of influence. The event took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere at the Cercle Royal Gaulois, a showcase of art and literature in the heart of the European capital. The three institutions of the European Union were represented:

- The Council, with more than 20 Permanent Representations in attendance, and the Hungarian Secretary of State for Agriculture.
- The Commission, at political level (Commissioners, Cabinet members) and administrative level (officials from the DG AGRI, TAXUD, SANTE, EEAS, etc.).
- The European Parliament, by 20 MEPs of 12 different nationalities.

HEALTH Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis was a speaker, as was Eric Andrieu MEP, Vice-President of the Wine Intergroup. Phil Hogan, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, was travelling abroad, but nevertheless wished to be present and spoke via video, closing with: *"I look forward to working with CEVI on the forthcoming issues concerning European agriculture!"*

After thanking the participants and remarking that *"the work of the independent winegrower extends from the vine to the wineglass"*, and that it is *"one of the key elements of rural development"*, Thomas Montagne, president of CEVI, said: *"The success of this evening is the fruit of 15 years of work. CEVI has become a key partner because we are reliable, a source of new ideas, and we address the focal issues concerning the land. This principle of realism sometimes leads us into conflict with European officials and politicians, although it does not prevent us from working closely with them on the various regulatory instruments in a relationship of mutual trust. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to them."*

During the evening, topical issues of interest to CEVI were addressed, including in particular: questions relating to the monopolies of the Scandinavian countries, the "OMNIBUS" regulation, the simplification issue, nutrition labelling, wine tourism, High Environmental Value (HEV) certification, distance selling and the launch of a European project H2020.

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