



## Press release

### **COVID-19 and the wine crisis: CEVI asks the European Commission for the maximum flexibility of the constraints weighing on the National support programmes and a massive financing plan for the market management measures requested by the Member States.**

**Paris, 10/04/2020.** During their General assembly held yesterday by videoconference, CEVI's members expressed their utmost concerns about the state of the market, now and in the months to come. They underlined that the sudden fall of sales due to the confinement as well as to the stop of exports will cause both an immediate acute cash flow problem for the independent winegrowers, and very quickly a volume imbalance on the market, with a consequent collapse of the prices.

In order to prevent the situation from becoming catastrophic, the European Commission must very quickly mobilise European funds enabling the Member States to activate, according to their needs and in full subsidiarity, various support measures such as private storage, green harvesting or distillation. At the same time, the Commission must amend its legislation in order to make it possible for these emergency measures to be backed up by the European budget.

At the same time, maximum flexibility should be granted regarding the measures of the national support programmes to free independent winegrowers from the many constraints that weigh on the sector. More than ever, it is imperative to allow independent winegrowers to benefit fully from the measures proposed by the national support programmes by reducing the administrative burden as much as possible through greater flexibility.

Thomas Montagne, CEVI's president, underlines that "at a time when the European Union is about to pour a considerable financial manna on other sectors, in particular aeronautics, it is imperative that it also helps a sector already affected by major geopolitical crises, and which has a direct impact on employment, tourism and the general development of rural areas. Exceptional circumstances call for exceptional responses! »

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### About CEVI:

*CEVI is on the only organisation representing and defending the interests of independent winegrowers at European level. CEVI counts today 12 000 members from 12 different Member States. Independent winegrowers are entrepreneurs at the head of a micro / small enterprise, often a family business. They make everything from the field to the bottle meaning that they produce and sell their wines directly to the consumer.*