



Press release

COVID-19 and the wine crisis: As tensions on the wine markets are increasing, and independent winegrowers' cash difficulties getting worse, CEVI emphasizes on the relative weakness of the measures proposed by the Commission, given their total absence of funding.

Paris, May the 4th 2020:

On Thursday the 30th, the European Commission sent to the Council and the Parliament the last version of the Delegated Act containing the measures considered necessary to answer the dramatic crisis both fruit & vegetables and wine markets are going through, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the emergency procedure planned by the Art 28 of the Regulation 1308/2013, this act is of immediate entry into force.

Mainly, the text authorizes Member States to implement, within their NSPs, a crisis distillation (Art.3) and a support to private storage (Art.4), while making them possibly funded through both NSP and State funds.

Other articles deal with the simplification of green harvesting (not sufficient, though), alongside with the increase of some aid rates inside the NSPs. Nothing is proposed about facilitating the promotion measures, nor the authorization to use them also within the EU.

Finally, all these measures are intended to be valid only during the financial year 2020.

According to Thomas Montagne, chairman of CEVI, *"if one can appreciate the speed and commitment with which the DG Agri reacted, we cannot be satisfied by the absence of any funding outside the NSPs, which are almost fully used. The contrast between the analysis of the situation and the weakness of the answer is incredible! Could Europe give up on its viticulture? This shall be like a spit on the face to the tens of thousands of European winegrowers, but also to the rural territories they support. Member States must now give a real political impulse."*

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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 13 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.