

Update on the EU Wine Package

A key focus was an update on the EU Wine Package, which was recently adopted by the EU institutions. Representatives of the European Commission outlined the current status of implementation as well as planned delegated acts. The aim of the package is to strengthen the European wine sector in the face of declining consumption, rising production costs, and growing climate challenges.

“The wine package is an important step toward making European viticulture fit for the future and enabling regions to benefit from greater flexibility and targeted support measures,” emphasized Robert Hergovich, Chair of the WINE Intergroup. He noted that measures to adapt to climate change, investments in innovation, and improvements in marketing and exports are particularly important.

Trade Agreements with India and Mercosur

Another agenda item focused on the impact of international trade agreements on the European wine market. Jesús Ángel Garrido Martínez (La Rioja region) presented an analysis of the agreements with India and Mercosur.

While the planned agreement with India is seen as an opportunity for European wines due to the planned significant reduction in import tariffs, opinions on the Mercosur agreement remain divided. In particular, issues regarding competitive conditions, plant protection standards, and potential impacts on European wine producers were discussed.

“International markets offer great opportunities for our high-quality European wines. At the same time, we must ensure fair competitive conditions for our winemakers,” said Hergovich.

Generational Renewal in Agriculture

In the third session, Emiliano García-Page Sánchez (Castilla-La Mancha) presented his work on the strategy for generational renewal in agriculture. It became clear that many farms in Europe are facing a generational transition and that young people must be more strongly attracted to the sector.

Topics discussed included better economic prospects for young farmers, targeted support measures under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and measures to strengthen rural areas.

“The future of European agriculture depends on whether we can rekindle young people’s enthusiasm for this profession. Agriculture is not just about production; it is also the foundation for regional development, food security, and social cohesion,” was emphasized during the discussion.

Further Activities of the WINE Intergroup

The members of the Intergroup also agreed on further activities to strengthen cooperation among European wine regions. Among other things, a joint event is planned for May in Brussels, where wine regions can showcase themselves and present their products.

The next meeting of the WINE Intergroup is scheduled for July 2026 in Brussels.