

**REPLY FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES TO THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM ARGENTINA
RELATING TO NOTIFICATION**

G/TBT/N/EEC/252

**DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION LAYING DOWN CERTAIN DETAILED RULES FOR IMPLEMENTING
COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 479/2008 AS REGARDS THE CATEGORIES OF GRAPEVINE
PRODUCTS, OENOLOGICAL PRACTICES AND THE APPLICABLE RESTRICTIONS**

The European Communities (EC) would like to express its appreciation for the comments from Argentina relating to the above-mentioned notification.

Firstly, the EC would like to inform the Argentinean authorities that the oenological practices mentioned in indents a), b), d) and e) of the 'Comments of Argentina' are traditional, and were already authorised by Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999. They have been used in the European Union since 1987, and their authorisation was reconfirmed in the draft Commission Regulation, pursuant to Article 32(a) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

The use of ion exchange resins is permitted in two cases: for the rectification of rectified concentrated must and for the tartaric stabilisation of wine (cationic resins only) at point 43 of Annex I-A, which is in line with the rules of the OIV (International Organisation of Vine and Wine).

Moreover, the EC would like to stress that the authorisation of the use of potassium alginate for sparkling wines is also in line with the OIV's rules and is authorised in the EU.

The use of copper citrate and the use of carboxymethylcellulose (cellulose gums) are new practices permitted by the OIV in June 2008, and the conditions for their use observe the rules laid down by the OIV. The EC can confirm that these provisions are not an obstacle to the export to the territory of the EU of Argentinean wines which comply with Article 82.2 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

Secondly, the EC would like to stress the fact that no practice that was permitted in the earlier regulations has been withdrawn from the list of practices in Annex I-A to the notified draft text. The use of malic acid, in particular, is permitted for the acidification of wines and must in point 12 of that Annex, in accordance with the rules of the OIV.

Lastly, the EC would like to inform the Argentinean authorities that the mechanisms stipulated for the authorisation of new practices are set out in Article 30 of Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

The EC hopes that the above explanation helps to alleviate the concerns of the Argentinean authorities.

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