

Brussels, 23 April 2019

**CEEV comments on  
TRIS Notification on Lithuanian law on alcohol control (2019/33/LT) - Draft Law of the Republic of  
Lithuania amending Article 18 of Law No I-857 on alcohol control**

By way of introduction, **the Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins (CEEV – [www.ceev.eu](http://www.ceev.eu))** represents the wine companies in the industry and trade in the European Union for still wines, sparkling wines, liqueur wines, aromatised wines, and other vine products. It brings together 23 national organisations. Its members produce and market the vast majority of quality European wines, with and without geographical indication, and account for over 90% of European wine exports.

The wine industry operates throughout the European Union and benefits greatly from the ability to move goods between Member States with few barriers to trade. However, we would like to raise our concerns regarding a law recently notified by the Lithuanian authorities.

On 31 January, the Lithuanian Government notified through the TRIS procedure the draft law amending article 18 of the Lithuanian law on alcohol control ([TRIS 2019/33/LT](#)). CEEV would like to thank the Lithuanian Government for having notified the draft law and for giving us the opportunity to contribute with comments to the notification.

The draft law intends to prohibit to sell in the Republic of Lithuania:

1. *Alcoholic drinks — stronger than 6 % ABV — falling within the categories of 'beer', 'fermented drinks' and 'alcoholic cocktails', where these are bottled into containers holding more than 0.2 l, except when said drinks are bottled into containers made of glass, ceramics, wood or metal (which actually would lead to the disappearance of the said alcoholic beverages bottles into plastic containers from the market);*
2. *Alcoholic drinks — not stronger than 6 % ABV — falling within the categories of 'beer', 'fermented drinks' and 'alcoholic cocktails', where these are bottled into containers holding more than one litre, except when said drinks are bottled into containers made of glass, ceramics, wood or metal (i.e. only alcoholic beverages not stronger than 6% ABV will be allowed to be sold bottled in plastic containers holding up to 1 litre;*
3. *Alcoholic drinks — stronger than 22 % ABV — bottled by the manufacturer into glasses, cups and other containers for direct use.*

**CEEV COMMENTS**

While CEEV supports actions aiming at declining the alcohol consumption among alcohol abusers, it defends the implementation of focused and proportionate actions and believes that the initiatives included in the Wine in Moderation programme ([www.wineinmoderation.com](http://www.wineinmoderation.com)) are a good example of a successful approach towards fighting alcohol abuse.

Article 8 of the Lithuanian law on alcohol control defines the general framework of classification of alcoholic beverages but does not list the groups, sub-groups and/or categories that are concerned.

CEEV requests the Lithuanian authorities to clarify which categories of alcoholic beverages are included under the

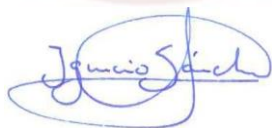
scope of new article 18 and in particular, if any of the categories of grapevine products defined under Annex VII, Part II of Regulation 1308/2013 fall under its scope.

In case any of the categories defined in the wine CMO fall under the scope of new article 18, the draft legislation will represent a clear technical barrier to trade for wines commercialised in bag-in-box packaging.

Bag-in-box is a widely used packaging system for still wines and does not represent *per se* any risk for consumers. The prohibition of these packaging material will limit the free circulation of legal products within the European Union with no clear link to consumers' safety.

In this framework, we very much hope that Lithuanian authorities will take our comments into consideration with a view to seeking the removal of the foreseen ban for wine categories.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ignacio Sanchez Recarte  
Secretary General