



September 12, 2022

Valdis Dombrovskis
European Commissioner for Trade
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 170/Wetstraat 170
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgium

Dear Commissioner Dombrovskis:

On behalf of the American and European members of the Wine Origins Alliance (WOA), we write to commend you on your ongoing efforts to strengthen the U.S. – EU trade relationship. We were very pleased with the efforts taken to resolve the Airbus-Boeing dispute and encourage you to develop a solution that permanently removes this Trans-Atlantic trade irritant. We were also very pleased with the launch of the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC). Deepening the trade relationship between two of the world’s largest economies will strengthen common efforts to advance our interests and values.

The WOA was founded in 2005 by eight distinctive wine regions from around the world that signed the Joint Declaration to Protect Wine Place & Origin, a set of principles aimed at educating consumers and policymakers about the importance of wine place name protection. Today, we have grown to a global coalition of more than 30 members in 11 countries spanning North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Twenty-five of our 31 members represent wine regions in the United States or the European Union, from Napa Valley to Champagne, Willamette Valley to Bordeaux, Texas to Sherry, and Missouri to Chianti Classico. In addition to seeking the protection of wine place names, we also share the mission of eliminating all tariffs on wine and non-tariff barriers to trade in wine.

We were pleased to see that the TTC Joint Statement from the Paris meeting commits the U.S. and EU to continuing to work toward expanding trade flows between our economies. Paragraph 14 of the Joint Statement declares that the U.S. and EU “will intensify our work to resolve trade disagreements to our mutual advantage, reduce unnecessary barriers to bilateral trade and investment, and strive to prevent new ones from emerging.” Further, paragraph 20 lays out the goals for the continued work of the TTC, including “to deepen bilateral trade and investment.” Moreover, Working Group 10 on Global Trade Challenges notes that the U.S. and EU “intend to establish a trade coordination dialogue” regarding issues of concern in “third countries” and that “[t]his dialogue will complement existing forms of coordination...to ensure the opportunity for timely exchanges and cooperation on the full range of trade policies and disciplines.”

The WOA stands ready to work with you to advance these goals. We share concerns about burdensome regulations in third countries like confusing labeling requirements as well as

excessively high tariffs. Cooperation on shared concerns in third countries can also lay the groundwork needed to revisit sensitive issues between the U.S. and EU on wine like the protection of wine place names. As the most prominent and active trade dialogue between the United States and the EU currently in place, it is imperative that U.S. and EU use this opportunity to propose a work agenda for the wine sector that can advance the goals of the TTC. We are also sharing this message directly with the U.S. Trade Representative.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on building this agenda.

Sincerely,

The Wine Origins Alliance

Wine Origins Alliance Members



Conseil Interprofessionnel
du Vin de Bordeaux
(France)



Bureau Interprofessionnel
des Vins de Bourgogne
(France)



Comité Interprofessionnel
du Vin de Champagne
(France)



Syndicat des vins Côtes
de Provence
(France)



Inter-Rhône
(France)



Council of Tokaj Wine
Communities
(Hungary)



Consorzio Vino Chianti
Classico
(Italy)



Instituto dos Vinhos do
Douro e do Porto
(Portugal)



Consejo Regulador
del Vino de Jerez
(Spain)



Consejo Regulador de la
Denominación de Origen
Calificada Rioja
(Spain)



Finger Lakes Wine
Alliance, NY
(USA)



Livermore Valley
Winegrowers Association,
CA (USA)



Long Island Wine
Country, NY
(USA)



Missouri Wine and Grape
Board
(USA)



Monterey County
Vintners & Growers
Association, CA (USA)



Napa Valley Vintners
Association, CA
(USA)



Oregon Winegrowers
Association
(USA)



Paso Robles Wine
Country Alliance, CA
(USA)



Santa Barbara Vintners,
CA
(USA)



Seneca Lake Winery
Association, NY
(USA)



Sonoma County Vintners,
CA
(USA)



Texas Wine Growers
(USA)



Walla Walla Valley Wine
Alliance, WA
(USA)



Washington State Wine
Commission
(USA)



Willamette Valley
Wineries Association, OR
(USA)



Barossa Grape &
Wine Association
(Australia)



McLaren Vale Grape
Wine & Tourism
Association
(Australia)



Wine Victoria
(Australia)



Wine Industry
Association of
Western Australia



Yamanashi Wineries
Association
(Japan)



Cape Wine
Origins
(South Africa)