



Brussels, 11.07.2018.

**Dear Commissioner Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS,**

We are writing to you as a group of concerned Members of the European Parliament, concerning the alignment of alcoholic beverages with EU Reg 1169/2011.

Over the last years on a number of occasions the European Parliament (European Parliament resolution of 29 April 2015 on Alcohol Strategy (2015/2543(RSP)), Member States<sup>1</sup> (latest Estonian Council Conclusion on Cross-border aspects in alcohol policy<sup>2</sup>) and stakeholders involved<sup>3</sup> have expressed their wish to fully align alcoholic beverages with the EU Reg 1169/2011.

Given the limited timeframe for work in the current European Commission mandate, we urge you and your colleagues, to address the issues and align requirements for alcoholic beverages with those for other food and drinks producers.

The current situation created disparities in the internal market, where a milk producer has higher administrative burden than a vodka producer did. We believe that the EU should allow a level playing field for all economic operators and not favour producers of one category of goods.

As rightly pointed out in your report<sup>4</sup> last year, there are no objective grounds to justify the continued absence of ingredients or nutritional information on alcoholic beverages (with greater than 1.2% ABV), nor differentiated treatment for some alcoholic beverages, such as 'alcopops'.

We recognise that the alcohol industries were allowed a year to produce a self-regulatory proposal that covers all alcoholic beverages.

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<sup>1</sup> Luxembourg Council Conclusions on an EU strategy on the reduction of alcohol-related harm (2015/C 418/03)

<sup>2</sup> As retrieved from: <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14082-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Brewers of Europe: Following the presentation to the European Commission of a joint inter-sectorial framework on ingredients listing and nutrition information, as retrieved from: [https://www.brewersofeurope.org/site/media-centre/post.php?doc\\_id=960](https://www.brewersofeurope.org/site/media-centre/post.php?doc_id=960)

BEUC: Alcohol makers fail to meet consumers' expectations for on-label information, as retrieved from:

<http://www.beuc.eu/publications/alcohol-makers-fail-meet-consumers%E2%80%99-expectations-label-information/html>

World Health Organization, Europe: Alcohol labelling - A discussion document on policy options (2017), as retrieved from: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/alcohol-use/publications/2017/alcohol-labelling-a-discussion-document-on-policy-options-2017>

<sup>4</sup> COM (2017) 58 final REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL regarding the mandatory labelling of the list of ingredients and the nutrition declaration of alcoholic beverages, as retrieved from: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/fs\\_labelling-nutrition\\_legis\\_alcohol-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/fs_labelling-nutrition_legis_alcohol-report_en.pdf)

Unfortunately, the alcohol industry's self-regulatory proposal for alcohol labelling has proven a disappointment (please see attached explanation).

We consider it is our obligation as representatives of European consumers to ensure they can easily make informed choices. Regardless of whether they are buying an orange juice or wine.

We hope that you will share our views that **the industry self-regulatory proposal is not sufficient and European Institutions should align alcoholic beverages with EU Reg 1169/2011 as soon as possible.**

Thank you for your attention, we remain at your disposal if you should have any questions.

**Members of the European Parliament:**

**Biljana BORZAN** - Croatia (S&D)

**Julie GIRLING** - United Kingdom (EPP)

**Bart STAES** - Belgium (Greens/EFA)

**Lynn BOYLAN** - Ireland (GUE-NGL)

**Nessa CHILDERS** - Ireland (S&D)

**Elżbieta ŁUKACIJEWSKA** - Poland (EPP)

**Monika BENOVÁ** - Slovakia (S&D)

**Jytte GUTELAND** - Sweden (S&D)

**Karin KADENBACH** - Austria (S&D)

**Susanne MELIOR** - Germany (S&D)

**Christel SCHALDEMOSE** - Denmark (S&D)

**Bas EICKHOUT** - Netherlands (Greens-EFA)

**Catherine STIHLER** - United Kingdom (S&D)

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**Margrete AUKEN** - Denmark (Greens-EFA)