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French Lawmaker Urges Government to Protect E.U. Wine Budget in CAP Talks

Charles de Courson said a dedicated allocation is vital for long-term investment, fair co-financing and support beyond producer groups.

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A French lawmaker has asked the government to defend a protected budget line for wine in the next reform of the European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy, arguing that the issue will shape long-term investment across one of France’s most important farm sectors.

In a written question published Sept. 22 in France’s Official Journal and posted by the National Assembly, Charles de Courson, a deputy for Marne, asked Agriculture Minister Annie Genevard what steps the government plans to take in the negotiations on the CAP after 2027. He called on France to push for the continuation of a mandatory national allocation for wine, the preservation of current EU co-financing rates, and eligibility rules broad enough to cover the full wine sector, including operators that are not part of producer organizations.

The parliamentary question does not change policy by itself, but it places public pressure on the government to state its position as talks continue in Brussels. De Courson said the outcome of the negotiations remains uncertain and that France’s stance could be decisive in building support among other member states.

He described the French wine industry as an economic, social and cultural anchor for many rural areas. In his question, he pointed to direct and indirect jobs, the upkeep of vineyard landscapes, and the international role of French appellations. He also said the sector is going through a difficult period marked by a strained economic climate and by trade disputes in which European wines and spirits have repeatedly been hit by retaliatory tariffs unrelated to the sector itself.

At the center of the issue is the future of the wine envelope inside the CAP, a mechanism that has existed for about two decades and gives member states a dedicated financial allocation for wine-sector measures. De Courson said that keeping that structure in place is essential for predictability and stability in long-term projects, including vineyard restructuring, adaptation to climate change, wine tourism development and promotion in export markets outside the EU.

That budget architecture matters beyond farm policy because it can influence how much funding producers can secure for replanting, modernizing facilities and adapting vineyards to hotter and less predictable weather. For the drinks sector, and especially for wine producers and parts of the spirits supply chain linked to grape growing regions, the level of EU support and the share financed by Brussels can affect the viability of investments that often take years to pay off.

De Courson also argued that changing course now would be hard to justify because the EU only recently updated wine legislation. He noted that a legislative package on wine took effect in March 2026 and said that package confirmed and strengthened the current framework. In his view, reopening the question of dedicated support so soon after those rules were adopted would create inconsistency for producers and regional authorities planning future spending.

Another key point in the lawmaker’s question is co-financing. Under many EU agricultural programs, national or private funding must be matched with EU money. De Courson asked the government to defend the current EU co-financing rates, saying they are a determining factor in maintaining fairness between wine regions and in avoiding distortions of competition inside the bloc’s single market. If those rates were reduced, projects that are viable in better-capitalized regions could become harder to finance in areas with fewer resources.

He also warned against narrowing the definition of who can receive sectoral support. His question says eligibility should include all operators in the wine chain, whether or not they are organized in formal producer groups. That point is significant for smaller businesses and independent operators that may not fit the structures favored by some EU schemes but still rely on investment support for vineyard renewal, processing equipment, market promotion and climate adaptation.

The question suggests that negotiations among EU governments are producing mixed signals. According to de Courson, several member states have backed the idea of a ring-fenced wine envelope, while others remain opposed. He did not identify those countries in the text of the question. The split highlights a broader tension in CAP talks, where some governments want greater flexibility in how funds are allocated and others are seeking stronger guarantees for specific sectors that argue they face unique market and climate pressures.

For France, the debate carries particular weight because of the size and reach of its wine industry. Wine remains one of the country’s best-known agricultural exports, and many rural economies depend on vineyard activity, processing, tourism and related services. A reduction in guaranteed support would not necessarily lead to an immediate drop in output, but it could alter investment decisions over time, especially in regions already dealing with rising costs, shifting weather patterns and volatile international demand.

The written question asks the minister to spell out both the measures the government will take and the strategy it will use to strengthen support from other EU capitals. That means the Assembly page frames the matter not only as a budget question but also as

a diplomatic one, with France expected to help build a coalition around its preferred approach before the post-2027 CAP is settled.

As of the publication of the question, no government reply had been posted on the Assembly page. Under France’s parliamentary procedure, written questions are answered later by the relevant ministry and published officially once a response is issued. Until then, the document offers one of the clearest public signals from the National Assembly that concern is growing over whether the current financial tools for the wine sector will survive the next round of EU farm policy reform.