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France Opens Consultation on New Uprooting Thresholds for Flavescence Dorée

The draft order would update prevention measures against the vine disease and its insect vector before comments close on Nov. 21

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French authorities have opened a public consultation on a draft order that would change how the country fights flavescence dorée, a serious grapevine disease, by redefining the thresholds that can trigger vine removal and by setting updated

prevention and control measures for the disease and its insect vector.

Agra reported on Friday, November 13, that the draft text will remain open for consultation until November 21. The proposal concerns flavescence dorée of the vine and the insect that spreads it, and would set the rules to prevent outbreaks and contain infections once they are detected.

The proposed changes matter because vine removal thresholds are one of the most sensitive parts of disease-control policy in wine regions. When authorities lower or raise the level at which uprooting becomes mandatory, they can change how quickly infected parcels are cleared, how much flexibility growers have, and how much disease-control work vineyards must finance.

Flavescence dorée is a major plant-health concern in viticulture because it can weaken vines and spread through vineyards if it is not checked. France has long relied on a combination of surveillance, treatment against the vector insect, and removal of infected plants or plots in the most serious cases. A revision of those rules suggests the government is trying to recalibrate the balance between rapid sanitary action and the economic burden placed on growers.

Agra’s report did not detail the exact new thresholds in the draft order, but it said the text specifically redefines the uprooting levels and lays out the prevention and control measures tied to the disease and its vector. That means the consultation could affect both emergency responses to confirmed infections and the routine obligations imposed on producers in exposed areas.

For the beverage industry, especially wine, the issue goes beyond plant health rules. Any shift in uprooting obligations could change vineyard management costs, labor needs, and the pace at which infected vines are replaced. If the final rules require more aggressive removal or tighter monitoring, producers could face higher short-term costs. If the thresholds are adjusted in a way that delays removal in some cases, authorities and growers will likely weigh that against the risk of wider spread.

The consultation phase gives growers, trade groups, and other stakeholders a chance to comment before the measure is finalized. In practice, those comments may focus on whether the proposed thresholds are scientifically justified, whether they can be applied consistently across wine regions, and whether the cost of compliance is proportionate to the sanitary risk.

The draft order comes at a time when disease prevention remains a central issue for French vineyards, where plant-health decisions can have direct consequences for output and long-term vineyard renewal. Because the rules govern both prevention and eradication, the final version could shape how producers organize inspections, treatments, and replanting plans in the coming seasons.

Agra described the measure as a project to redefine uprooting thresholds in the fight against flavescence dorée, indicating that the government is not just updating technical language but revisiting one of the key operational tools used to contain the disease. Until the consultation closes on November 21, the proposal remains subject to review and possible revision before any final order is adopted.