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PRESS RELEASE

EU Wines recorded the biggest hike in EU agri-food exports sales.

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According to a recent report published by the European Commission on EU agricultural exports in 2008-2010¹, wine recorded the biggest hike in EU agri-food exports sales. The volume of EU wine exports rose by over 22% and average unit value by 1%, UE becoming a net exporter of agri-food products for the first time since 2006, with a €6 billion surplus.

With 5.8 billion €, wine and sparkling wine were also the EU's highest value export in 2008-2010, with the US, Switzerland, Canada, Japan and Hong Kong as the key markets in value, which account for over 70% of the EU wine exports. Wine exports account for 5% (979 million €) of the total increase in EU agricultural exports. Wine has been the top product contributing most to the increase in EU-27 net agri-food exports, and to the improvement in the EU's trade balance in 2010.

« We congratulate for this excellent performance of the EU Wine export sector when sailing through the economic downturn has put our European wine companies to the test. No doubt the market-oriented measures in the reform of the EU Wine Common Market Organisation are being most useful to support the objective of reinforcing the competitiveness of the EU wines and to expand markets worldwide”, declared José Ramón Fernández, Secretary General of CEEV. “To help the European wine sector to improve its leading position and expand market shares, the European Commission and the Member States must keep on reorienting investments from the CMO towards dynamic measures »

“The coherent and balanced deployment of the Wine CMO reform, in accordance with the stages which have been accepted, must be respected in its entirety”, said Lamberto V. Gancia, CEEV President. “It is essential to preserve this new framework and its philosophy, constructed on the basis of the demand from consumers and markets rather than production and supply”.

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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/map/01_11_en.pdf



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Note to the editors

- Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins (CEEV – “Comité Vins”, www.ceev.be) represents the wine companies in the industry and trade in the European Union: *still wines, aromatised wines, sparkling wines, liqueur wines and other vine products*. It brings together 24 national organisations. With more than 7.000 companies, mainly SMEs, and more than 200.000 direct jobs in the EU, its members produce and market the vast majority of quality European wines, with and without a geographical indication, and account for over 90% of European wine exports. With around 6 billion € worth of exports every year, the wine sector makes a contribution of over 3 billion € to the EU trade balance.