

ling provisions<sup>2</sup>, and the second dealing with the implementation of EU rules on the de-alcoholisation of wines.<sup>3</sup> Despite the informal nature of these “communications”, these texts go further than simply informing operators about their obligations under Regulation (EU) n° 2021/2117. On specific matters, the Commission decides on the correct interpretation (without prejudice to possible future different interpretations by the European Court of Justice (ECJ)) and even introduces new rules, not always welcomed by the wine sector. These texts therefore add to the EU legal framework applying to wines and should be taken into account when considering the relevant national rules in each Member State.

Meanwhile, the regulation on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, which we announced in our introduction to the second edition, has finally been adopted. Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024<sup>4</sup> not only confirms the innovations introduced progressively by the abovementioned Regulation 2021/2117 but it also introduces new rules – of substantive as well as procedural nature. These new rules are likely to have a significant impact on the registration, the management and the protection of PDOs/PGIs for wine. Although some provisions of this regulation will enter into force in 2025, most of them have been in force since May 13, 2024, calling for a fast adaptation – when necessary – of national laws.

The following are examples of substantive changes (among others) :

- Article 26 § 1a of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 protects PDOs/PGIs for wine against weakening, dilution and detrimental action to their reputation. The EU legislator has not given any definition of these new types of infringements against geographical indications. However, these practices are distinct from the exploitation of the reputation of the geographical indication.
- Article 26 § 2 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 extends the protection of geographical indications “to all domain names accessible in the Union”, whereas Article 35 § 1 provides that “(c)ountry-code top-level domain name registries established in the Union shall ensure that alternative dispute resolution procedures for domain names recognise registered geographical indications as a right that can be invoked in those procedures”

2 Commission Notice – Questions and answers on the implementation of new EU wine labelling provisions following the amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33, C/2023/1190, OJEU 24.11.2023.

3 Commission Notice – Questions and answers on the implementation of EU rules on the de-alcoholisation of wines, C/2024/694, OJEU 15.1.2024.

4 Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialities guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products, amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2019/787 and (EU) 2019/1753 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, OJEU, L, 23.4.2024.

Finally, among the various interesting wine law cases brought before the ECJ, two should be mentioned in particular: on the one hand, the *Weingut* case<sup>5</sup>, which changes dramatically the conditions under which the terms designating a vitivinicultural holding (“domaine”, “château”, “castello”, “clos”, “Weingut”...) can be used. The intrusion of European Law in this field of valued national traditional expressions is likely to be a source of conflicts with well-established national rules.

On the other hand, the case of *Papouis v. European Commission*<sup>6</sup> explains the sharing of powers between the EU and Member States in the complex administrative procedures of registration, amendment and cancellation of geographical indications, including PDO/PGI for wines. The decision adds to the relevant provisions of Regulation (EU) 2021/2117, which are already included in Regulation (EU) 2024/1143.

## Thanks

We wish to address our sincerest thanks to all our country authors and peer reviewers, who have contributed to this book on a pro bono and disinterested basis. That's the AIDV spirit!

The Editors  
Theodore Georgopoulos  
Rein-Jan Prins  
Stephen Stern

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5 ECJ, 23.11.2023, C-354/22, ECLI:EU:C:2023:916.

6 General Court of the EU, 21.02.2024, Case T-361/21, ECLI:EU:T:2024:99.

# Reading guide and disclaimer

## Reading guide

All country chapter authors received and answered the same questionnaire about wine law. Thus, the reader can easily compare specific issues in various countries “at a glance” by clicking on the hyperlink of the chosen question, which leads to a Horizontal Index.

The chapters are arranged in alphabetical order of the English names of the countries.

Short biographies of the country chapter authors are available at the beginning of the book or by clicking on their names.

The peer review having been a “double-blind” peer review, there are no biographies of peer reviewers.

This book contains many hyperlinks to local legislation, making it directly consultable.

## Disclaimer

This is a handbook and does not constitute legal advice. Although the texts are updated regularly and have been thoroughly reviewed through a double-blind peer review system, neither the publishers nor the individual authors can accept any liability for possible mistakes.

This guide was up to date as at the date of each author’s contributions. However, the law is dynamic and there have doubtlessly been some changes in some countries since the authors finished the final versions of their chapters.