



## JOINT POSITION PAPER ON BREXIT: THE NEED FOR A GOLD STANDARD AGREEMENT

The EU and UK spirits and wine sectors depend on the freedom of movement of goods as well as people and capital within the EU, including the UK. Top priorities for our sectors in the context of Brexit negotiations are as follows:



**Predictable and pragmatic transition by March 2018:** A non-disruptive transitional implementation arrangement should be confirmed by the end of March 2018, allowing businesses to continue trading in the knowledge that the rules will not change until the end of any transition period. The transition agreement should provide not only time for the continued negotiation of the future EU27-UK relationship but also guarantee the maintenance of all the EU acquis relevant to wine and spirits, as well as the continued application of existing FTAs.



**Preservation of rules affecting our sectors:** All acts and specific provisions impacting the wine and spirits sectors should continue to be applicable to the import into and marketing in the UK of products originating in the EU27. If continued convergence of legislation is not feasible after the UK has left the EU, mutual recognition of EU27 and UK standards, or equivalence, will be important for the smooth flow of trade. The UK should adopt EU food labelling rules and maintain, as appropriate, food labelling rules that are the same as those in the EU27. The EU and UK should maintain the same level of protection for wine and spirits GIs after Brexit.



**Comprehensive free trade agreement:** We hope for any future customs arrangements to avoid border tariffs, processing delays, conformity assessment and related administration costs. It is critical that electronic customs systems are in place. Tariffs should not be introduced on the sectors' inputs, and specific measures should be agreed to minimise the impact on trade between the Republic of Ireland and the UK.



**Continuity of Intellectual Property:** The UK must adopt a national trademark exhaustion principle, and the EU and UK should grandfather the rights associated to the European trademark brands that have been registered with the EUIPO before Brexit, as well as continue to cooperate to seize counterfeit goods.



**Protecting People:** The EU27 and the UK should allow people to remain in their place of work and focus on being able to move people easily between the EU27 and the UK.



**Preserving existing EU bilateral agreements:** We call upon the EU and the UK to ensure that Brexit will not lead to any negative consequence on the smooth and fair enforcement of the existing EU bilateral agreements in place with third countries.

**We urge the EU27 and the UK to agree on a gold standard agreement that preserves wine and spirit tariff-free trade, fair competition and maintains consumer confidence in our products. Beyond 2019, we very strongly support the rapid negotiation of a full Free Trade Agreement between the EU27 and the UK.**

# FACTS & FIGURES

## THE SPIRITS AND WINE SECTOR

### A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE ECONOMY

#### OVER 3 MILLION JOBS



can be attributed to the production and sale of spirits and wine from **production to sales**



EU wines and spirits are a key driver of the EU

#### Tourism & Hospitality

which represent respectively **10 & 12 MILLION JOBS**



**50,000 people** are employed in the **EU glass container industry**, with spirits and wine as main contributors

### A SECTOR ROOTED IN TRADITION



**240+** geographical indications registered in Europe for spirits

with names like **Cognac, Scotch Whisky, Irish Whiskey, Polish Vodka** backed by centuries of respected agrarian traditions and local expertise.



**OVER 1,900**

**PDO and PGIs** are associated with European wine, with world famous **French, Italian and Spanish** wines.

**63%**

of EU wines are protected by PDO/PGIs

**90%**

of total EU wine exports in value are EU PDO/PGI wines

### AN INDUSTRY DEEPLY CONCERNED BY BREXIT



**€2.3 billion**

**UK exports of wine & spirits to the EU27**



For Wine  
€204 million



For Spirits  
€2.1 billion

**€2.9 billion**

**EU27 exports of wine & spirits to the UK**



For Wine  
€2.3 billion



For Spirits  
€591 million