



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 Directorate F – Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications
 The Director

Brussels
 AGRI.F.3/

Subject : Request of interpretation of Article 2, point 1 (e), of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, definition of “operator” and scope of its application

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your email dated 30.05.2024 requesting an interpretation of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 ⁽¹⁾ as regards the definition of “operator” set out in Article 2, point 1 (e). You enquire in particular whether a bottler performing activities set in the product specification should be considered only as an “operator” or also as a “producer”.

Article 2, point 1 (e) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 defines the term ‘operator’ [as] “*a natural or legal person who performs activities subject to one or more obligations provided for in the product specification*”. This definition applies to any trade performing activities in relation to the production or processing of the product. For the wine trade, this means that any winegrower, wine trader or bottler may be considered as operator, only if they perform activities subject to one or more obligations provided for in the product specification of the concerned wine product.

Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 does not provide for a definition of producer *per se*. In any event, bottling is not a production step and, therefore, a bottler may not be considered as a producer, although it may be an operator in the meaning of Article 2, point 1 (e) of Title I of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143.

The above information is based solely on the facts set out in your letter of 30 May 2024, expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours Faithfully,



Diego CANGA FANO

⁽¹⁾ 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.

Ms [REDACTED] CEEV - Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins < [REDACTED]@ceev.eu
 [REDACTED] < [REDACTED]@ceev.eu >