

OFFICIALS Consideration of Revised Assessment of Impact - DSC **Provisionally Agreed Text - COM/2025/137**

Updates to the proposed regulation

In December 2025, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament reached provisional agreement on the legislative text, which introduces several amendments to the original proposal. On 10 February 2026, the text was adopted by Parliament.

Most of the amendments to Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 and (EU) No 251/2014 relate to rules on wine production such as authorisation for vine plantings. These changes will not affect Northern Ireland as there is no wine production here.

A small number of updates, primarily concerning labelling proposals, will be applicable in Northern Ireland. These include introducing the term “low-alcohol”, instead of the previously proposed “alcohol-light”, to describe wine and aromatised wine between 0.5% alcohol by volume (ABV) and at least 30% below the minimum actual alcohol strength of the category before dealcoholisation. The update also clarifies that mandatory particulars are only required to appear once on the label.

An amendment has been included that gives the Commission powers to adopt a delegated act concerning rules on optional terms on trademarks and commercial names referring to a holding in the wine sector. This is a new addition, does not bring forward any change at this stage but provides the Commission with the powers to bring forward change in the future should it choose to do so.

An amendment has been included in the Annex to state that the Commission will endeavour to bring forward a draft amendment to (EU) 2019/934 to allow for the possibility of “coupage” (blending) as a method to produce partially de-alcoholised wine. This creates no immediate change, but states the intent of the Commission to endeavour to make the amendment in the future.

The updated proposal includes an amendment to [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.](#)

Spirit drinks with a geographical indication are often reliant on complex supply chains involving several operators performing different production stages. Arrangements that rely on flexible sourcing are very common. The specific labelling obligation for spirit drinks laid down in Article 37(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, requiring the indication of the producer’s name in the same field of vision as the geographical indication, has been shown not to fit the structure of most of the spirit drinks’ supply chain well. To avoid disruption of established practices and imposing disproportionate burdens on operators in this sector, especially on small and medium-sized producers, it is appropriate to remove that obligation.

It remains the view of officials that it is not likely that the proposed amendments would have a significant impact specific to everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland in a way that is liable to persist.

It also remains the view of officials that it is not likely that not applying the replacement EU act would have a significant impact specific to everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland in a way that is liable to persist