



Paris, 14 of April 2020

THE CLOSE AND HISTORICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OIV AND THE FAO

**AN ONLINE BILATERAL MEETING TO
DISCUSS WAYS TO FACILITATE CLOSER
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OIV AND
THE FAO, WAS HELD LAST WEEK.**

On April 9th Director-Generals of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Mr Qu Dongyu, in Rome and of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), Mr Pau Roca, in Paris, met online in order to comply with general lock-down rules.

During this bilateral meeting, the two intergovernmental organisations discussed ways to facilitate closer cooperation.

Historical roots

The long-standing FAO-OIV cooperation dates back to December 1948 when both intergovernmental organisations formalised an agreement between their respective Director-Generals. The very specific harmony in this collaboration relies on the recognition of the importance of farming and food production in these two institutions, while maintaining their autonomy, keep each other informed of their main activities in order to avoid overlapping.



This close cooperation has been maintained in a number of areas of complementary activities such as health, trade and statistics

Indeed, the OIV and the FAO have been working together in the development of appropriate standards for vine and grape products and of limits (contaminants, residues...) to protect consumer health and to ensure fair practice in food trade, recognising OIV as an observer in the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The OIV wishes to deepen the excellent cooperation within FAO on safety and quality. Looking to the future, they discussed how to strengthen collaboration between the different Departments of both organisations.

At the same time, the FAO statistics division and the OIV are collaborating very closely to improve the quality and availability of statistics on the vitivinicultural sector, which includes area harvested as well as production, consumption and trade in fresh grapes, juice, wine, dried grapes and other vine-based products. The richness of statistical information available at FAO coupled with the scientific and technical expertise of OIV provides the appropriate knowledge-mix to analyse trends and growth opportunities for the whole range of vitivinicultural products.

Looking towards the future

The OIV is particularly attentive to the concerns raised by the United Nations agencies. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are one of the current considerations handled within [the Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#) that integrates 13 of the 17 SDGs into its work.

Although the world vineyard represents 7.4 million hectares out of 1.5 billion hectares of arable land -that is only 0.5%- the farmers income per surface unit compared to other arable crops follows a very interesting evolution due to the value chain and price formation in a very fragmented economic structure. This benefits millions of grape-growers. Origin, territorial identification and strict quality rules provide for empowerment of farmers in the value chain. This model can be applicable to many crops.

Therefore, both IGOs rely on their synergy for increased cooperation in projects in some countries where the development of vineyards could be an opportunity to increase the value of agricultural production, thereby developing farming population in areas where vineyards are one of the most adaptable crops even in drought conditions and preventing desertification.

Furthermore, the OIV and the FAO share their view for the protection of plant varieties and the research inherent to vineyard adaptation to climate change and sustainable production. They will do so in cooperation with other competent and relevant specialised agencies. These historical links, initiated when the FAO was known as the International Institute of Agriculture, before WWII, will be commemorated in 2024 with the centenary of the OIV. Mr Roca has invited the FAO to join in this celebration and relies on this ongoing cooperation to pursue their fruitful work.



Note for editors

The OIV is the intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature of recognised competence for its work concerning vines, wine, wine-based beverages, table grapes, raisins and other vine-based products.

It is composed of 47 Member States.

In the framework of its competence,
the objectives of the OIV are as follows:

- to inform its members of measures whereby the concerns of producers, consumers and other players in the vine and wine products sector may be taken into consideration;
- to assist other international organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, especially those that carry out standardisation activities;
- to contribute to international harmonisation of existing practices and standards and, as necessary, to the preparation of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing and marketing vine and wine products, and to help ensure that the interests of consumers are taken into account.

Contact

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