Dear Mr [Art 4.1(b)

I would like to thank you for your letter of 28 January about the future of the vine planting authorisation system addressed to Commissioner Wojciechowski, who has asked me to reply.

The system of vine planting authorisations, which was introduced by the 2013 reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and finalised in 2015, is now the last remaining production limitation system in the CAP. Its 15-year duration until 2030 and the maximum annual growth of 1% of the planted areas, as well as the room for manoeuvre left to the Member States in this context, are part of a political compromise designed to enable current and future wine producers to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by a market that retains significant development potential, especially for exports. The Commission’s position on this issue remained consistent with this compromise and did not propose changes to this political balance.

Between 2015 and 2019, the vineyard area in the 13 Member States participating in the system of vine planting authorisations has increased by only 0.55%, despite the substantial use of the transitional rule allowing the conversion of old planting rights into authorisations, with a decrease in the vineyard area in some Member States.

The Commission has taken note of the position of the two co-legislators in favour of extending the scheme of authorisations for plantings beyond 2030. Such an extension of a limitation to fundamental rights of potential new entrants requires sound justification and must be consistent with its transitional and proportionate nature. With this in mind, the Commission services have put on the table possible solutions, such as increased
flexibility only after 2030, in order to secure a strong and legally secure agreement. The discussions are continuing and I am confident a compromise will be found that will ensure that the best interests of the wine sector and wider stakeholders are served.

Yours sincerely,