

**Signed Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Europea Union - New Zealand FTA
Committee on Wine and Spirits Annex**

22 April 2026, Wellington and hybrid meeting

The second meeting of the European Union-New Zealand FTA Committee on Wine and Spirits Annex was hosted by New Zealand and held in Wellington on 22 April 2026, in hybrid format.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Bettina Weber from the Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand and Mr Tomasz May from Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission.

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

Both sides welcomed each other and reaffirmed their desire to continue their constructive engagement on wine and spirits related issues.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted and is provided in Annex 1.

Agenda Item 3: Trade in Wine and Spirits

Both sides provided updates on their respective wine and spirits sectors noting that their sectors faced similar challenges including uncertain market conditions and changing consumer preferences.

Despite this, New Zealand noted that the wine industry's long-term outlook remained positive. The EU remained an important market for New Zealand wine and New Zealand wine exports to the EU had increased since entry into force of the FTA. The New Zealand spirits industry was small, and young in global terms, but growing, and New Zealand looked forward to the opportunities the Annex will provide to this growing industry in the future.

The EU noted that the FTA was working well with no issues being raised by EU stakeholders. EU wine exports to New Zealand had increased since entry into force of the FTA, a sign of stability. While overall export volumes were small New Zealand remained an important destination for EU wine and spirits and supported the EU's market diversification strategy.

Agenda Item 4: Issues of Interest

Discussions covered several issues of interest as follows:

4.1.: Update on the EU's recently adopted wine package

4.1. i - Ingredient and Nutrition Labelling

New Zealand thanked the EU for acknowledging in its recently adopted wine package that the absence of harmonised rules to implement the EU's ingredient and nutrition labelling requirements has resulted in the emergence of different requirements by national authorities, adversely affecting the proper marketing of wines. New Zealand welcomed that the wine package empowers the Commission to adopt additional rules to address this issue, including through a language free system. New Zealand asked the EU to provide a timeframe for the

development of those rules and reiterated its desire to explore pragmatic interim solutions until the new rules take effect.

The EU confirmed that it was working on proposals enabling harmonised ingredient and nutrition information references on labels. A language free option remained the Commission's preferred option. The EU aimed to adopt the new rules by the end of the year and would notify draft proposals to the WTO TBT Committee. In the meantime, the EU's advice remained that the safest approach to avoid issues was to include both, a reference to ingredient and nutrition in connection with the QR Code on labels.

New Zealand took note and confirmed that it would inform stakeholders of the EU's feedback.

4.1. ii - Labelling for reduced and alcohol-free wines

New Zealand welcomed the engagement by the EU during the development of its new labelling rules for reduced and alcohol-free wines.

New Zealand recalled past discussions on this topic and sought confirmation from the EU that provision (k) as added to Article 119 (1) of Regulation 1308/2013 enables wines produced by dealcoholisation with a final actual alcohol content that is less than the 30% reduction specified under the new Article 119 para 1 (a) (ii), to be labelled as wine "produced by de-alcoholisation". The EU confirmed this was the case and added that the new provision (k) applied irrespective of the other provisions set out in the new wine package.

4.1. iii - Follow-up regarding piquette

In response to New Zealand's request for an update, the EU confirmed that there was no intention to change EU rules regarding piquette.

4.2 EU packaging and packaging waste regulations

In response to a clarification question by New Zealand on the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation's stated intention on harmonised implementation of the EU requirements the EU asked New Zealand to follow up with specific wording in writing to DG AGRI for onward sending to DG ENV for a response.

Agenda Item 5: Issues of Mutual Interest

5.1 Sustainability Update

Both sides agreed to cover substantive discussions under this item during the field visits the following day.

5.2 Background on Field Visits

Background on the field visits to be undertaken on 23 April had been provided to the EU in advance of the Committee meeting separately.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business

6.1 Updates to Contact points

Both sides shared up to date information on contact points.

6.2 Confirmation of meeting report process

New Zealand as host confirmed that it would send a first draft of the Committee minutes to the EU for the EU's review within the agreed timeframes.

6.3 EU read out of wine outcome under the EU-Australia FTA

The EU provided a read out of the non-tariff related outcomes of their recently concluded FTA negotiations with Australia. New Zealand welcomed the information provided and requested further clarification on the outcome on the number of tests required for Australian bulk wine trade with the EU as well as on the use of certain varieties in the EU that contain geographical indications. The EU undertook to revert on both points.

Agenda Item 7: Closing Remarks

Both sides reaffirmed the value of their constructive working relationship and agreed on the positive nature of the meeting. Both sides agreed to keep in touch and continue engagement on the issues discussed including inter-sessionally.

Ms Bettina Weber,
Principal Adviser, Trade Policy and Economics
Ministry for Primary Industries,**[electronically signed]**
New Zealand

Mr Tomasz May,
International Relations Officer, DG AGRI G.3,
European Commission,**[electronically signed]**
European Union

Annex 1 - Agenda

Time		Agenda Item	Lead
EU	NZ		
08:00 - 08:10	18:00 - 18:10	1. Opening Remarks (NZ)	NZ/EU
08:10 - 08:15	18:10 - 18:15	2. Adoption of Agenda (EU and NZ)	EU/NZ
		3. Trade in Wine and Spirits	
08:15 - 08:30	18:15 - 18:30	3.1 New Zealand: Update on wine and spirits industries including trade data on bilateral wine and spirits trade since entry into force of the FTA	NZ
08:30 - 08:45	18:30 - 18:45	3.2 EU: Update on wine and spirits industries including trade data on bilateral wine and spirits trade since entry into force of the FTA	EU
		4. Issues of Interest	
08:45 - 09:35	18:45 - 19:35	4.1 EU updates on wine package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Ingredient and Nutrition Labelling ii. Labelling for reduced and alcohol-free wines iii. Follow-up regarding piquette 4.2 EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation – EU Member States Harmonisation 4.3 Issues of EU Interest	EU/NZ
		5. Issues of Mutual Interest	
09:35 - 09:50	19:35 - 19:50	5.1. Sustainability Update 5.2. Background for Field Visits on 23 April (NZ)	NZ/EU
		6. Other Business	
09:50 - 09:55	19:50 - 19:55	6.1. Updates to Contact Point 6.2. Confirmation of Meeting Report Process (NZ to provide first draft) 6.3. EU update on wine outcomes in the EU-Australia FTA	EU/NZ
09:55 - 10:00	19:55 - 20:00	7. Closing Remarks	NZ/EU