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Comparative Analysis of Wine Production Regulations in parallel to the creation of the European Union and the Collapse of the Soviet Union in the Oldest Wine Producing Country – Georgia – and the Biggest Wine Producing Country – France

For the purposes of the present article, France and Georgia are intentionally selected as two case studies. The major reason for this derives from the history and traditions of wine making and its regulation existent in these two countries: France being the country with dominant position in wine production and Georgia being the country with oldest wine making traditions.

This article represents second part of the research and focuses on the development of wine production regulations in France and Georgia from early 1950s to 1992.¹

The primary reason for the selection of the period starting from early 1950s to 1992 is that this period is important for both countries, because for France (as a member of the European Union) the time frame matches with the official establishment of the Organization based on Maastricht Treaty,² and for Georgia this period is emblematic because it was initially forcefully brought into the Soviet Union, lately regaining independence from it in 1991.³ Therefore it is interesting to have a deeper look into the changes, challenges and influences of the EU on French wine production regulations and of the Soviet Union on Georgia's regulations.

Introduction

¹ For the previous research see N. Parsadanishvili, *Comparison of Wine Production Regulations in France and Georgia from the Early 20th Century to 1950s*, "Journal of Polish-Georgian Law" 2021, No 1, pp. 129–148.

² The Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty, as amended) art. A. Digital version is available at EUR-Lex eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A11992M%2FTXT [access on: 7.01.2021]. See also: P. Craig, G. de Burca, *EU Law: Text, Cases, and Materials*, 5th edn, Oxford 2011, p. 15.

³ D. Rayfield, *Edge of Empires: A History of Georgia*, London 2012, p. 339. See also: R. G. Suny, *The Making of the Georgian Nation*, 2nd edn, Bloomington–Indianapolis 1994, pp. 192, 322, 327; D. Raic, *Statehood and the Law of Self-Determination*, Leiden–Boston 2002, p. 380; C. Walter, A. von Ungern-Sternberg, K. Abushov (eds), *Self-Determination and Secession in International Law*, Oxford 2014, p. 121. Act of Restoration of State Independence of Georgia. This legal document is available at matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/32362?publication=0 [access on: 9.07.2020].

Georgia with its ancient wine making traditions, is the birthplace of wine (“cradle of wine”),⁴ World’s oldest wine was discovered in Georgia in 8 000 years old jars, as evidence of the oldest example of the domestication of a wildy growing vine solely for the production of wine,⁵ while since 2013 Ancient Georgian traditional Qvevri wine making method is included in world heritage list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).⁶ Till now ‘Georgia is the only country in the world where winemaking methods that were developed up to 8,000 years ago have not only never been abandoned but remain in many ways best practice.’⁷

While France next to its extensive experience in wine production and its leading position in wine consumption within the Europe,⁸ holds the position of the dominant country in wine production throughout the world.⁹ At the same time the Laws on *Appellation d’origine contrôlée* – AOC and *Vin délimité de qualité supérieure* – VDQS, among other affords, makes France very unique and far more advanced in terms of refining regulations of wine production, than it could be imagined not only in Georgia at that time, but in Europe itself.

Therefore, present article gives not only comparative analysis of the two countries that is hardly seen in academic scholarship, but at the same time fills in the information gaps existent about Georgia, as the sources used are not widely available in English, and accordingly are not widely discussed and analyzed so far by the global academic community.

⁴ *Discover the Secret Birthplace of Wine*, www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/destinations/asia/georgia/sponsor-content-secret-birthplace-of-wine/ [access on: 13.07.2020]. See also: P. Rytönen, L. Vigerland, E. Borg, *Tales of Georgian wine: storytelling in the Georgian wine industry*, “Journal of Wine Research” 2021, vol. 32 (2), p. 7.

⁵ *World’s oldest wine’ found in 8,000-year-old jars in Georgia*, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41977709#:~:text=Scientists%20say%208%2C000-year-old,capital%2C%20Tbilisi%2C%20researchers%20said [access on: 13.07.2020]. For full research article see: P. McGovern, M. Jalabadze, S. Batiuk, *Early Neolithic wine of Georgia in the South Caucasus*, “PNAS” 2017, vol. 114, No. 48, www.pnas.org/content/114/48/E10309.full [access on: 13.07.2020]. See also: *Raise a Glass to Georgia, the Official Cradle of Wine*, georgiatoday.ge/news/8213/Raise-a-Glass-to-Georgia%2C-the-Official-Cradle-of-Wine [access on: 13.07.2020].

⁶ Decision of the Intergovernmental Committee: 8.COM 8.13, ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/8.COM/8.13 [access on: 13.07.2020]. See also: *Ancient Georgian traditional Qvevri wine-making method*, ich.unesco.org/en/RL/ancient-georgian-traditional-qvevri-wine-making-method-00870 [access on: 13.07.2020]; C. Gilby MW, *Georgian winemaking method joins UNESCO heritage list*, www.decanter.com/wine-news/georgian-winemaking-method-joins-unesco-heritage-list-30889/ [access on: 13.07.2020]; K. Charkhalashvili, *Qvevri Winemaking on UNESCO Cultural Heritage List*, www.georgianjournal.ge/arts-a-culture/25639-qvevri-winemaking-on-unesco-cultural-heritage-list.html [access on: 13.07.2020]; *Qvevri*, georgianwine.gov.ge/En/KvevriWine/Details/2 [access on: 13.07.2020]; *Raise a Glass to Georgia...; Qvevri. Honoring an ancient process*, www.winesgeorgia.com/site/winemaking-tradition [access on: 13.07.2020].

⁷ A. Jefford, *Georgian wines: older and wiser*, www.ft.com/content/7307e952-f50b-11e2-b4f8-00144feabdc0 [access on: 13.07.2020].

⁸ G. Adams, C. Austin, R. Baudains, *Wines of the World*, 2nd rev edn, New York 2009, pp. 52, 186. See also: J. Conway, *Global wine consumption in 2019, by country*, www.statista.com/statistics/858743/global-wine-consumption-by-country/ [access on: 16.07.2020]; *Wine consumed in pure alcohol, litres per capita, age 15+*, gateway.euro.who.int/en/indicators/hfa_428-3052-wine-consumed-in-pure-alcohol-litres-per-capita-age-15plus/visualizations/#id=20008 [access on: 16.07.2020].

⁹ *2019 statistical report on world vitiviniculture (International Organization of Vine and Wine – OIV)* p. 14. The report is available at oiv.int/public/medias/6782/oiv-2019-statistical-report-on-world-vitiviniculture.pdf [access on: 26.07.2020]. See also: J. Conway, *Leading countries in wine production worldwide 2019*, www.statista.com/statistics/240638/wine-production-in-selected-countries-and-regions/ [access on: 26.07.2020].

The structure of the article begins with exploring the regulations of the European Economic Community (EEC) to the EU as its successor and then switches to France, for the major reason – to find out how the regional organization and its wine production policy affected French wine production regulations. In parallel to this article also explores and analyses the wine production regulations of the Soviet Union, their impact on Georgia and incumbent wine production regulations of the country.

Wine Regulations from the EEC to the EU

In 1957 the signing of the Treaty of Rome and the creation of the EEC brought about the drastic changes into the European legal framework of wine production.¹⁰ The Treaty of Rome attempted to cover the rules not existed before regarding the elimination of trade barriers and the establishment of an international market.¹¹

Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome was very important for reaching these aims, since it created the Common Agricultural Policy, which applied to a wide range of products, including wine.¹²

In 1959 when the Common Custom Tariff act was passed, the EEC started the process of unifying the wine industry. The aim was to reduce outside competition by placing customs duties on imported wines based on the type of wine, alcohol volume and sugar content.¹³

In 1962 Regulation 24/62 “on the progressive establishment of a common organization of the market in wine”¹⁴ set out four main provisions: 1) Each country was to establish a vineyard register, 2) A central authority was to keep track of annual production levels, 3) Strict rules were to be established regarding quality wines produced in specified regions, 4) Future estimates of resources and requirements were to be compiled annually.¹⁵

¹⁰ EC Treaty (Treaty of Rome, as amended) Preamble. Digital version is available at EUR-Lex, eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A11957E%2FTEXT [access on: 7.01.2021]. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International Regulation of Wine Production*, Harvard 2002, p. 18. Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands were the initial member states of the EEC. Ibidem, p. 19; G. Meloni, K. Anderson, K. Deconinck, J. Swinnen, *Wine regulations*, “Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy” 2019, vol. 41 (4), pp. 622–623.

¹¹ EC Treaty (Treaty of Rome, as amended) Preamble.

¹² Ibidem. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 19.

¹³ A. Niederbacher, *Wine in the European Community*, Luxembourg 1983, p. 36. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 20; W. J. Stewart, *common customs tariff*, legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/common+customs+tariff [access on: 11.01.2021].

¹⁴ Council Regulation 24/62, preamble 1962 O.J. (L 989), p. 123. Digital version is available at EUR-Lex eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=celex:31962R0024 [access on: 11.01.2021]. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 20.

¹⁵ Council Regulation 24/62, preamble, arts. 1, 2, 4, 6 1962 O.J. (L 989), p. 123–124. See also: T. Unwin, *Wine and the Vine: An Historical Geography of Viticulture and the Wine Trade*, New York 1991, p. 321–322; J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 20.

In spite of the fact that the foundation of the common wine market was set in 1962, the true realization of it did not come until 1970, when the Common Wine Policy (hereinafter CWP) was passed through Regulations 816/70 and 817/70. Regulation 816/70 set out the basic provisions implementing the common organization of the wine market, and Regulation 817/70 on the other hand, set out provisions specifically for the quality wines.¹⁶ The most important Aim of the CWP was that, the EC was to be considered as a single market and wine was to travel without restraint within it.¹⁷

While free movement within the EC was supported by prohibiting duties and charges, trade with non-EEC member countries was to be controlled.¹⁸ Regulation 816/70 also set out the certain boundaries for the wine industry, so the alcohol content of the “table wine” was to be between 8.5–15%,¹⁹ and it could not be fortified.²⁰ Moreover the EC was divided into five zones, with differing requirements on alcohol content and chaptalization for each of them.²¹

As mentioned above, Regulation 817/70 focused on the production of quality wines, taking into consideration the traditional methods of wine production used in Member States.²² Thus each Member State had to create a list of those vine varieties, which were needed to produce particular quality wines,²³ as well as to define the wine production methods and even were allowed to create legislation that was more strict than regulations of EC itself.²⁴ All wines had to be made from *Vitis vinifera* and had to pass analytical and organoleptic tests.²⁵

Since the adoption of the CWP and making of numerous regulations afterwards, the creation of Regulations 822/87 and 823/87 combined the economic and qualitative rules, taking into consideration past policies.²⁶

¹⁶ Council Regulation 816/70, 1970 O.J. (L 99) 1. Digital version is available at EUR-Lex, eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A31970R0816 [access on: 11.01.2021]; Council Regulation 817/70, 1970 O.J. (L 99) 20. Digital version is available at EUR-Lex, eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31970R0817 [access on: 11.01.2021]. See also: T. Unwin, *Wine and the Vine...*, p. 322; J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 21.

¹⁷ P. Spahni, *The Common Wine Policy and Price Stabilization*, Aldershot 1988, p. 3. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...* p. 21; G. Meloni, and J. Swinnen, *The political economy of regulations and trade: Wine trade 1860–1970*, “The World Economy” 2018, vol. 41 (6), p. 3.

¹⁸ Council Regulation 816/70, arts. 8, 31. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 21.

¹⁹ Council Regulation 816/70, Annex II. See also: A. Niederbacher, *Wine in the European Community...*, p. 32 (n 12); J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 21.

²⁰ Council Regulation 816/70, art. 25. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 21.

²¹ Council Regulation 816/70, art. 18. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 22. Chaptalization is addition of sugar to the grape juice, before or during fermentation to increase alcohol volume. *Chaptalization – History*, www.liquisearch.com/chaptalization/history [access on: 27.01.2020]. See also: S. L. Carty, *Chaptalization*, wine.lovetoknow.com/Chaptalization [access on: 27.01.2020].

²² Council Regulation 817/70, preamble. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 22.

²³ Council Regulation 817/70, art. 3. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 22.

²⁴ Council Regulation 817/70, arts. 4, 7, 15. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 22.

²⁵ Council Regulation 817/70, arts. 3, 11. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 22.

²⁶ A. Vialard, *Regulating Quality Wines in European and French Laws*, “Northern Illinois University Law Review” 1999, vol. 19, pp. 235, 237. For more information how CWP was supplemented and developed, see following Council

Regulation 822/87 included many similar provisions created in the past, but it tried to reinforce them by reducing yields and raising quality.²⁷

Regulation 823/87, like Regulation 817/70, focused on quality wines, thus included many similar provisions. Member Countries were obliged to establish the criteria for quality wines, such as: the demarcation of production areas, varieties of vine, methods of cultivation and winemaking, minimum volume of natural alcohol, yield per hectare, analysis, and organoleptic assessment.²⁸ Each Member Country had to create a list of vine varieties suitable for individual quality wine.²⁹ Countries were free in determining conditions and characteristics of wine production if they met or exceeded the basic requirements.³⁰

Regulations 822/87 and 823/87 represented main legal acts of the wine industry, before European Union as part of Agenda 2000, attempted to maintain competitiveness of wine producers along with expansion of international wine market, at the same time trying to balance supply and demand.³¹ All these regulations have had an impact on all member states of the European Union including France. In order to see what had to be done by France to bring its regulations in compliance with those of the EU next part of the article focuses primarily on this country.

Regulations of France after the Creation of the EEC

France already had a quality wine system, before the EC was created, thus when the EC established qualitative requirements, Country had to make few changes to its regulations concerning AOC and VDQS. But still there was a necessity to respond to the economic policies of the EC on table wine.³² The law of July 30 1935, initiated by Josep Capus, established the system of *Appellation d'origine contrôlée* – AOC, thus, distinguishing quality wine from ordinary table wine. In order to comply with AOC requirements, this system defined, the production areas, grape varieties, minimum alcohol

Regulations: 1338/70, 2005/70, 1162/76, 1163/76, 454/80, 456/80. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, pp. 22–25.

²⁷ Council Regulation 822/87, Title III. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 25.

²⁸ Council Regulation 823/87, art. 2, 1987 O.J. (L 84) 61. Digital version is available at Publication Office of The European Union, op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/afd4e017-1798-4f7e-9e14-b4bd1d12256f/language-en [access on: 10.01.2021]. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 25.

²⁹ Council Regulation 823/87, art. 4. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 25.

³⁰ Council Regulation 823/87, art. 18. Thus far, France is the only country to have more rigorous standards than required. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 26.

³¹ J. Robinson (ed), *Oxford Companion to Wine*, 2nd edn, New York 1999, p. 265. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 26.

³² L. A. Loubère, *The Wine Revolution in France: The Twentieth Century*, Princeton 1990, p. 267. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 29.

levels, growing methods, and winemaking techniques for the regions. It still represents the basis of French wine policy and has been later adapted by other major viticultural regions of Europe.³³

The Category *Vin délimité de qualité supérieure* – VDQS – created by the affords of Philippe Lamoure, was with less strict demands than superior AOC, but still classified as quality wine and stranded above the table wine.³⁴

To respond to the new challenges, in 1973 the French government, created a superior category of table wine – *Vins de pays*. This new category included geographical designations and also inherited many of the approaches of the AOC system. These wines were to be labeled in accordance with these three geographic categories: 1) Regional (large wine-growing areas); 2) Departmental (wines from a single department); 3) Zonal (small districts or single communes).³⁵ In spite of the fact that there were certain limitations concerning *Vins de pays*, such as: blending was forbidden, production had to be from specific grapes and in limited quantities, these wines had to have a minimum alcohol volume, and was to be submitted to a tasting panel,³⁶ still these limitations were less strict than restrictions on quality wine, thus allowing more freedom in the wine production.³⁷ But these limitations differed from those, regulating ordinary table wine, in this case there was no limitation on yield and blending. As in case of AOC and VDSQ wines, it was the matter of local regulations and the producer's practices, whether wine producer made *Vins de pays* or ordinary table wine.³⁸

Since the French laws had been developing for centuries, there was no need of making adjustments in order to be compatible with regulations created by EU. Eventually France became the only country having stricter requirements regarding quality wine, than established by the EU.³⁹ For instance, according to French law, if a wine label indicates a particular vine variety and is to be sold in France, 100% of the grapes must be from that exact variety, in spite of the fact that the EU itself and its other

³³ L. A. Loubère, *The Wine Revolution in France...*, p. 122. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, pp. 14–15; P. Spahni, *The Common Wine Policy...*, p. 14; T. Unwin, *Wine and the Vine...*, p. 316; G. Adams, C. Austin, R. Baudains, *Wines of the World...*, p. 52; T. Stevenson, *The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia*, 4th edn, London 2005, p. 54.

³⁴ P. Spahni, *The Common Wine Policy...*, p. 16. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 15; C. K. Warner, *The Winegrowers of France and the Government Since 1875*, New York 1960, pp. 158, 161; G. Adams, C. Austin, R. Baudains, *Wines of the World...*, p. 52; T. Stevenson, *The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia...*, p. 639; *The Pocket Wine Encyclopedia*, New York 2006, p. 84.

³⁵ C. Coates M. W., *An Encyclopedia of the Wines and Domaines of France*, Oakland 2000, p. 39. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 29.

³⁶ J. Robinson (ed), *Oxford Companion to Wine...*, p. 744. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 29.

³⁷ C. Coates M. W., *An Encyclopedia of the Wines...*, p. 39. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 29.

³⁸ J. Robinson (ed), *Oxford Companion to Wine...*, p. 744. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 30.

³⁹ K. H. Josel, *New Wine in Old Bottles: The Protection of France's Wine Classification System Beyond Its Borders*, "Boston University International Law Journal" 1994, vol. 12, pp. 471, 473.

member countries only require that 85% of the wine be from the indicated variety.⁴⁰ Restrictions established by the EU, about criteria of production area, vine varieties and vine density, growing and winemaking methods, grape ripeness, yield, and organoleptic and chemical analysis also happened to be stricter in case of AOC and VDSQ wines in France than in EU itself.⁴¹

In 1990, France went even further by considering the removal of all vine varieties from wine labels. The background for this idea was ‘that wine should express the total character of the process, or terroir, not just the fruit flavor’.⁴²

French government strictly controls the usage of an AOC name, this is essential to prevent misleading presentation of wine, and to avoid consumer confusion.⁴³ The “Institute National des Appellations d’Origine” – INAO chases offenders at national and also at international levels. One of the methods in preventing violations is that the INAO offers bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, thus If violation is identified abroad, the INAO will try to bring an action or support changes of laws in that country.⁴⁴ As a result, French wine producers get many benefits, they are also given an opportunity to contest those AOC grants that do not match with previously used geographic denominations.⁴⁵

The AOC laws are often subject of criticism, because these protectionist measures are more focused on defending the wine producer, rather than consumer.⁴⁶ Initially, when AOC system was created, the main aim was to hunt down falsification, but still, it is assumed that about one-third of wines sold since 1920 was falsified by one way or another. It seems that falsification is very hard to trace down,

⁴⁰ L. A. Loubère, *The Wine Revolution in France...*, p. 108. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 30.

⁴¹ C. Coates M. W., *An Encyclopedia of the Wines...*, p. 40. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 30; J. Robinson (ed), *Oxford Companion to Wine...*, p. 28.

⁴² J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 30. See also: J. Robinson (ed), *Oxford Companion to Wine...*, pp. 369, 700.

⁴³ A. Vialard, *Regulating Quality Wines...*, p. 241. See also J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 31; Code de la consommation art. L. 115-8. Digital version is available at Légifrance, www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGITEXT000006069565/ [access on: 11.01.2021]; J. Chen, *A Sober Second Look at Appellations of Origin: How the United States Will Crash France's Wine and Cheese Party*, “Minn. J. Global Trade” 1996, vol. 5, pp. 29, 37, (n 45).

⁴⁴ K. H. Josel, *New Wine in Old Bottles...*, p. 472. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 32. For the recognition of AO regions, a special body – Comité National des Appellations d’Origine (CNAO) – was established in 1935 and this made France the first country, which created the system controlling the origin and quality of wines throughout the country. In 1947 CNAO became the Institute National des Appellations d’Origine (INAO). L. A. Loubère, *The Wine Revolution in France...*, pp. 122–123. See also: T. Stevenson, *The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia...*, p. 54; J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 14; S. Bouneau, B. Christine, *Dictionnaire des parlementaires d'Aquitaine sous la Troisième République*, Bordeaux 1998, p. 182; T. Colman, *Wine Politics: How Governments, Environmentalists, Mobsters, and Critics Influence the Wines We Drink*, Oakland 2008, p. 22; P. Lukacs, *Inventing Wine: A New History of One of the World's Most Ancient Pleasures*, New York 2013, p. 200; *History of Wine*, vins-france.com/en/wines-in-france/history/ [access on: 17.10.2015]; L’Institut national de l’origine et de la qualité, www.inao.gouv.fr [access on: 20.04.2020].

⁴⁵ J. Chen, *A Sober Second Look...*, p. 37–38. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 32.

⁴⁶ C. Coates M. W., *An Encyclopedia of the Wines...*, p. 41. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 32.

because of the tricky methods that are used by offenders.⁴⁷ In spite of the fact that it's impossible to fully eliminate falsification, still the AOC system can be considered as successful tool in establishing controlling, supervising, and investigating activities, which are essential to fight false labeling.⁴⁸

AOC wines from one of the 390 recognized appellations now make up over 40% of the total French wine production. VDSQ wines have sixty five denominations of their own, but only make up 0.9% of total production. The reason for this discrepancy is that many VDSQ wines are driven to raise their standards in order to receive the honored AOC designation. *Vins de pays* make up another 27% of production and consist of 141 denominations, 4 of which are regional, 42 are departmental, and 91 are zonal.⁴⁹

It is undoubtful that the Laws on *Appellation d'origine contrôlée* – AOC – and *Vin délimité de qualité supérieure* – VDQS, among others, are making France very unique and far more advanced having refined wine production regulations and is definitely the best example of the quality wine producers in the world.

With the next part present article gives the overview of the wine production regulations existent within the Soviet Union.

Wine Regulations of Soviet Union

Speaking about wine production regulations of Soviet period, first that should be discussed are State standards of Soviet Union (Государственные стандарты Союза ССР – ГОСТ) (hereinafter GOST) and Republican Standards (Республиканские стандарты союзных республик – РСТ) (hereinafter RST).⁵⁰

State standards – GOSTs – were mandatory for all enterprises, organizations and institutions in all sectors of the national economy of the USSR and Union Republics as well.⁵¹

The main GOSTs regarding the wine production of Soviet Union can be considered following ones: GOST 7208-84 Grape wines. General specifications (Вина Виноградные. Общие технические условия), GOST 13918-88 Soviet champagne. specifications (Советское шампанское.

⁴⁷ L. A. Loubère, *The Wine Revolution in France...*, p. 105. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 32.

⁴⁸ L. A. Loubère, *The Wine Revolution in France...*, p. 122. J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 32.

⁴⁹ J. Robinson (ed), *Oxford Companion to Wine...*, p. 39. See also: J. A. Munsie, *A Brief History of the International...*, p. 33.

⁵⁰ See: GOST 1.0-68, arts. 3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.1.5, 3.2.6, 3.2.9. Digital versions of this document can be accessed on *Kodeks, Jelektronnyj fond pravovoj i normativno-tehnicheskij dokumentacii* (in Russian), docs.cntd.ru/document/1200088352 [access on: 24.03.2021]. The name “GOST” represents an acronym which means state standard. See: *History*, www.rst.gov.ru/portal/eng/home/about/history [access on: 15.02.2021].

⁵¹ GOST 1.0-68, arts. 3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.2.6.

Технические условия), GOST 12134-87 Sparkling wines for export. Specifications (Вина игристые для экспорта. Технические условия), and GOST 28685-90 Sparkling wines. General specifications (Вина игристые. Общие технические условия).⁵²

GOST 7208-84 was approved and entered into force on January 1, 1989 by the decree # 3035 issued on August 29, 1989 by the USSR State Committee of Standards.⁵³ This standard set out wine classification system, which subcategorized wines according to certain criteria.⁵⁴

According to how many grape varieties were used in the wine production, classification set out two subcategories: 1) Varietal wines (Сортовые вина) – made from one variety of grape and 2) Blended wines (Купажные вина) – made from several grape varieties. In production of Varietal wines, using 15% of different grape varieties was allowed.⁵⁵

It should be noticed that, allowance of different grape varieties with amount of 15% is similar to the approach set out by EU.⁵⁶

According to quality and ageing time, classification set out three subcategories: 1) Ordinary wines (Ординарные вина) – made from individual grape varieties or by mixing grapes, sold without aging; 2) Vintage wines (Марочные вина) – the high-quality wines, produced by the special or traditional wine making methods, from certain grape varieties, or from a specially selected grape mixture, growing in strictly regulated areas, characterized by the delicacy of taste and aroma. For this kind of wines mandatory aging period, not less than 1.5 years was required before sale, but there were some exceptions, thus in case of Georgian wines of Kakhetian type, the minimum aging period required was not less than 1 year; 3) Collectible wines (Коллекционные вина) – vintage aged wines that were additionally kept in bottles for at least 3 years.⁵⁷

By the production methods (technology), wines were categorized in following groups: 1) Table wines (Столовые вина); 2) Fortified wines (Крепленые вина) and 3) Aromatized wines (Ароматизированные вина).⁵⁸

⁵² Digital versions of these and other GOSTs can be accessed on *GOSTy i standarty* (in Russian), standartgost.ru [access on: 15.02.2021]; One of the main creators of GOSTs regarding Soviet champagne and Sparkling wines was Georgian born Soviet Scientist Naskid Sarishvili. See: GOST 13918-88, Information Data, 5; GOST 12134-87, Information Data, 4; GOST 28685-90, Information Data, 4; *Sarishvili Naskid Grigor'evich* (in Russian), www.cnsnb.ru/AKDiL/akad/base/RS/000440.shtm [access on: 21.02.2021].

⁵³ GOST 7208-84, preamble. It replaced previously existed standard GOST 7208-70. Ibidem.

⁵⁴ Ibidem, art. 1.

⁵⁵ Ibidem, art. 1.1.

⁵⁶ See text to n 39 in chapter Regulations of France after the Creation of the EEC.

⁵⁷ GOST 7208-84, art. 1.2. Kakhetian type wines are made by Georgian traditional technology, using clay jugs, buried in the ground, called “Qvevri” as the fermenting vessels. After the primary fermentation ends, wines are left on grape skins up to 6 months in case of white wines and about 2 weeks in case of red wines. See: g. barisashvili, *ghvinis daqeneba kvevrshi*, tbilisi 2010, (in Georgian) pp. 28–29. See also: g. jankhoteli, *meghvineoba*, tbilisi 1999, (in Georgian) pp. 217–218; k'. modebadze, *meghvineoba*, tbilisi 1948, (in Georgian) pp. 514–515; *Vinogradarstvo i vinodelie Gruzii* (in Russian), www.sovietwine.com/winery/gssr.html [access on: 13.02.2021]; *Qvevri...*

⁵⁸ GOST 7208-84, art. 1.3. The group Table wines (Столовые вина) was subcategorized in four types: Dry, Semi dry, Semi sweet and Special type which included Georgian wines of Kakhetian type. The group Fortified wines (Крепленые

By the color wines were categorized as: White (Белые), Rose (Розовые) and Red (Красные).⁵⁹

In terms of alcohol and sugar volume, GOST 7208-84 set out requirements by wine type, moreover this standard set out color requirements for each type of wine. For Table wines required alcohol volume range was from 9 to 14%, except for Special type of wines, so in case of Georgian wine of Kakhetian type, standard established range from 10.5 to 13%. Range for Fortified wines was from 12 to 20% and for Aromatized wines from 16 to 18%.⁶⁰

GOST 7208-84 even set out wine storage periods guaranteed by producer. Starting from day of bottling, these periods varied from 3 to 5 months according to wine categories.⁶¹

Decree #1942 of 27 June 1990 issued by the USSR State Committee on Quality Management of Products and Standards amended GOST 7208-84. Among amendments, most important was additions made to the wine classifications, such as: classification defining wines according to quality and ageing time, increased with one subcategory called “Aged wines” (Выдержанные вина), which were defined as wines of improved quality, produced by the special wine making methods from individual grape varieties or by mixing grapes, with mandatory aging period of not less than 6 months, before sale. Also new category called Wines of controlled denominations of origin (Вина контролируемых наименований по происхождению) was created, which were defined as high quality wines, produced by the special or traditional wine making methods from certain grape varieties, growing in strictly regulated areas, having the unique organoleptic characteristics, induced by the ecological environment of specific area, designated in their denominations.⁶²

Soviet Wine classification based on quality and ageing time is another example where similarities can be found with French and European classifications. It should be considered as yet another attempt of Soviet Union to adapt European experience. Vivid example of this, can also be seen in amendment to the GOST 7208-84 creating new wine category – Wines of controlled denominations of origin.⁶³

GOST 13918-88 Soviet Champagne. specifications, went into force in 1st January of 1989,⁶⁴ and was created almost in the same manner as GOST 7208-84. It covered following aspects of production, starting from technical requirements and types of Soviet champagne, ending with wine storage periods guaranteed by producer.⁶⁵

вина) was subcategorized in different types of fortified and dessert wines and finally the group called Aromatized wines (Ароматизированные вина) contained fortified and dessert types of wines, produced by addition of various plant extracts or their distillates. Ibidem.

⁵⁹ Ibidem, art. 1.4.

⁶⁰ Ibidem, art. 2.4.

⁶¹ Ibidem, art. 6.2.

⁶² Decree #1942, 311.

⁶³ See text to n 31 in chapter Regulations of France after the Creation of the EEC.

⁶⁴ GOST 13918-88, preamble.

⁶⁵ See: GOST 13918-88, arts 1–5.

Standards for Sparkling wines GOST 12134-87 and GOST 28685-90 were pretty similar to GOST 13918-88. For each type of sparkling wine both standards covered the same aspects of production.⁶⁶

Regulations of Georgia as an Union Republic of Soviet Union

Standardization system of Soviet Union allowed Union republics to have their own Republican Standards – RSTs,⁶⁷ which were created for local products of particular Union Republic and were mandatory for ministries and all enterprises, organizations and institutions located on the territory of that Republic.⁶⁸

Main RSTs regarding the wine production of Georgian SSR, can be considered RST 247-77 on Georgian Collectible Wines (Вина Коллекционные Грузинские) and RSTs regarding Vintage wines (Марочные вина) and Ordinary wines (Ординарные вина).⁶⁹

By the RST 247-77 Georgian Collectible Wines were defined as vintage aged wines of especially high quality that were additionally kept in bottles for at least 3 years.⁷⁰ This definition was quite similar to that, established by the GOST 7208-84.⁷¹ Overall structure and content of this standard were also very similar to GOST 7208-84.⁷²

Georgian Collectible Wines (Вина Коллекционные Грузинские) were categorized as White Table wines (Столовые Белые), Red Table wines (Столовые Красные), and Fortified wines (Крепленые)⁷³ similarly to the wine classification of the GOST 7208-84,⁷⁴ but further subcategorization of Table wines instead of being Dry, Semi dry, Semi sweet and Special type,⁷⁵ was done by attaching area names or vine names to wines. Same was done in case of Fortified wines (Крепленые) by attaching area or other names (kind of brand names – emphasis added) to wines.⁷⁶

⁶⁶ See: GOST 12134-87, arts 1–5 and GOST 28685-90, arts 1–6.

⁶⁷ GOST 1.0-68, art. 3.1.1.

⁶⁸ Ibidem, arts. 3.1.5, 3.2.9

⁶⁹ During the research process it occurred that, it is impossible to retrieve all RSTs of Soviet times regarding the wine production of Georgia. All Republican Standards that will be discussed here, were able to retrieve from National Scientific Library – TSU. For complete list of RSTs that is available in the library see: National Scientific Library – TSU, opac.sciencelib.ge/cgi-bin/koha/opac-search.pl?q=ccl=pb%3AGосплан%20Грузинской%20СССР%2C%20&sort_by=pubdate_dsc&limit=se:%20Республик%20анский%20стандарт%20Грузинской%20СССР [access on: 4.09.2021].

⁷⁰ RST 247-77, preamble.

⁷¹ GOST 7208-84, art. 1.2. Collectible wines (Коллекционные вина) – vintage aged wines that were additionally kept in bottles for at least 3 years. Ibidem.

⁷² cf. GOST 7208-84, arts. 1–6.

⁷³ RST 247-77, art. 1.1.

⁷⁴ cf. GOST 7208-84, art. 1.3.

⁷⁵ See: ibidem.

⁷⁶ RST 247-77, art. 1.1. According to area names wines were subcategorized as: Tsinandali, Gurjaani, Mukuzani, Napareuli and so on. According to vine wines were subcategorized as: Tsolikauri, Tsitska, Rkatsiteli and according to some sort of brand names wines were subcategorized as: Saamo, Bouquet of Abkhazia. Ibidem.

This approach of naming wines was quite similar to The European, especially French tradition of naming wines according to certain production area – denomination, vine variety or brand name.⁷⁷

Indication of vintage was required for Georgian Collectible Wines.⁷⁸

Initially, alcohol volumes for Georgian Collectible Wines were omitted from technical requirements set out by the RST 247-77,⁷⁹ but in 1988 amendment #2 (Изменение №2 РСТ 247-77) made few changes in this document, including addition of alcohol volumes for individual wine. So, for White Table wines alcohol volume varied from 10 to 13%, for Red Table wines from 10.5 to 12.5%, and for Fortified wines from 15 to 19%.⁸⁰ There was not any storage periods guaranteed by producer regarding Collectible Wines.⁸¹

In case of Vintage wines, the aging period was similar to the GOST 7208-84 - not less than 1.5 years, including exceptions for of Georgian wines of Kakhetian type with minimum aging period requirement not less than 1 year. Vintage wines were defined as the high-quality aged wines.⁸²

Production of Ordinary wines was set out in a following way, these wines were made from the leftover wines (wine materials) after the selection of Vintage wines (wine materials) and sold without aging, after two months from processing the grapes.⁸³

As mentioned above, Soviet wine classification according to quality and ageing time should be assumed to be close to the European system, and since requirements set out by GOSTs were mandatory to comply for every republic and all RSTs including Georgian standards had to be created according to GOSTs, all these contributed to that Georgian wine classification also became similar to French and European wine classification systems, especially by distinction from GOST and attaching area names or vine names to Georgian Collectible Wines, which itself is very unusual case for that times, when everything was controlled by central authorities of Soviet Union and any diversion from rules was forbidden.

Georgian Collectible Wines, although not yet having the very same concept of controlled denominations, as it was done in France for superior quality wines, still can be considered more or less equivalent of AOC category, Vintage wines and Ordinary wines more or less equivalent of VDQS or Vins de pays and Vin de table⁸⁴ respectively.

⁷⁷ For famous French wine names see G. Adams, C. Austin, R. Baudains, *Wines of the World...*, pp. 54–55.

⁷⁸ RST 247-77, art. 4.2.

⁷⁹ Ibidem, art. 2.

⁸⁰ Amendment #2 for RST 247-77, Annex.

⁸¹ RST 247-77, art. 5.1.

⁸² g. jankhoteli, *meghvineoba...*, p. 204.

⁸³ Ibidem, 205.

⁸⁴ Table wine – the most basic, least regulated wine category, it is forbidden to indicate the vintage, the region or the grape varieties on the label. G. Adams, C. Austin, R. Baudains, *Wines of the World...*, p. 52. See also: *Vin de Table*, www.winespectator.com/glossary/show/id/vin_de_table [access on: 6.03.2021]; *Vin de France (formerly Vin de Table)*, www.wine-searcher.com/regions-vin+de+france+-+vin+de+table [access on: 6.03.2021].

Prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, from its total production, 2.7% of grape wines, 12% of “Champagne” and 14% of “Cognac” were produced in Georgia.⁸⁵

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Key words: comparative analysis, wine production regulations, European Union, France, Soviet Union, Georgia

Summary

When comparing French and Georgian wine production regulations from early 1950s to the beginning of 1990s it becomes obvious, that the Laws on *Appellation d'origine contrôlée* – AOC – and *Vin délimité de qualité supérieure* – VDQS, and other regulations, made France very unique in terms of quality wine production, than it could be hardly imagined in Europe not to say a word about Georgia.

As regards Georgia, things were completely different at that time, due to the fact that country was annexed by the Soviet Union, restricting any opportunities of equality and freedom, unlike the processes in Europe, when independent European countries like France freely established and joined the EEC and lately it's successor the EU. Thus, it was impossible for Georgia to make its own decisions in any direction and the wine production regulations were not an exception for sure, as country's legislation was heavily influenced by the Soviet Union. Thus, diversion from Soviet standard regarding Collectible Wines, and more or less similarities in definition of Georgian wine categories with the French counterparts, but still not having the very same French concept of controlled denominations, did not made Georgian wine production regulations as sufficient as French regulations at that time eventually.

As regards similarities between the wine production regulations of the EU and the Soviet Union it has to be emphasized that the Soviet Wine classification based on quality and ageing time is good example of existing similarities with French and European classifications. It can be said that this was an attempt of the Soviet Union to adapt European experience. Two vivid examples of this are creation of new wine category – Wines of controlled denominations of origin and permission on usage 15% of different grape varieties in production of Varietal wines.