



..... PRESS RELEASE .....

## US DUTIES: FEVS WAITS FOR ANSWERS FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

**Paris, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 — Since 6:00 A.M. this morning (00:00 A.M. Washington DC time), imports of French still wines into the United States have been subjected to 25 % additional customs duties. This is due to the decision of the US authorities to impose compensation measures in the context of their dispute with the European Union in the aeronautical sector. Deploing the effective entry into force of these customs duties, the FEVS calls on the government to immediately introduce the necessary support measures for the sector and its companies.**

"We are the collateral victims of a conflict that is not our own" reminds Antoine Leccia, President of the FEVS. "We regret that to this point the European Union and the United States have not yet reached an agreement that would have avoided this situation".

The United States is our biggest export customer and represents nearly 20 % of our total wine-exports. More than 4,500 French wine exporting companies are now directly impacted by 25 % additional customs duties. For Antoine Leccia, President of the FEVS, "this taxation will lead to a price increase of more than 30 % for the US consumer. At the same time, our competitors will not be affected by this cost increase in their product. Therefore, there is a major risk of loss of market share for French wines. Beyond exporters, the entire French wine sector is now weakened".

In response to this threat, we repeat our request to the government to urgently adopt concrete measures to support the sector and its companies, to offset the arbitrary damage suffered by our sector. These decisions must be taken quickly because our companies are now facing a major risk of a deterioration of their economic situation.

Moreover, it is crucial to resolve this situation. The French and European authorities must reject any temptation to escalation of trade sanctions that would penalize all actors in the sector, in France as in the United States. Without further delay, it is up to them to reach a negotiated solution with the United States.

"As the Minister of the Economy, Bruno Lemaire, recently stated, the wine and spirits sector is one of the flagships of the French economy and its foreign trade. France, with the European Union, must take strong and immediate measures to ensure the sustainability of this sector of excellence, which carries the reputation of our country throughout the world" concludes Antoine Leccia.

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### ***About the FEVS***

The Fédération des Exporateurs de vins et spiritueux (FEVS) brings together approximately 550 companies exporting wines and spirits from France, representing 85% of French wine and spirits exports. In 2018, these exports reached €13.2 billion with a trade surplus of €11.5 billion. The United States is the leading market for French wines and spirits, with a turnover of €3.2 billion.