The industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group agreed the following statement at its meeting in Brussels, Belgium (21-22 March, 2013):

**WWTG Industry statement on the OECD studies into alcohol**

As part of the OECD Programme of Work and Budget for the years 2011-2012, the OECD Health Committee undertook to conduct analyses of trends and patterns of alcohol consumption, with a view to exploring the potential impacts of policy options to address the harms associated with such consumption.

A final report for the project will be published under the authority of the Secretary-General, which will present the findings of the various streams of work in a cohesive form for an audience of policy makers, health professionals and health policy scholars. This report will provide an overall summary of OECD work on the economics of alcohol consumption and on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of alcohol policies, and an assessment of the policy relevance of the findings presented.

The OECD Secretariat prepared a paper titled HARMFUL ALCOHOL USE: TRENDS AND PREVENTION POLICIES for the OECD Health Committee meeting on 3-4 December 2012. Following the recommendations of the OECD Health Committee, the OECD Secretariat has produced a revised document. Comments are required throughout March and April with the final paper being considered by the OECD Health Committee in July.

The current draft contains a number of methodological flaws and ideology based assumptions; promotes population-based policies to reduce consumption instead of reducing alcohol related harm; does not give enough merit to certain type of interventions (eg. school-based interventions), promotes policies which were not validated by the Health Committee, fails to properly assess the real consequences of the proposed policies and recommends a best buys approach as the best policy approach contrary to the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy.

We would urge those WWTG member governments who are members of the OECD to participate in the discussions and ensure that a balanced approach is taken in the document to ensure it is consistent with the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy; by addressing harmful use, not reducing consumption; and following a best policy approach not a best buys approach.