



SEAOP

GREEK
FEDERATION
OF SPIRITS
PRODUCERS

14/3/2023

Prohibition of Import, Production and Sale of Alcohol in Iraq

Dear Mr. Director General,

We have recently been informed from our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the B5 Directorate of Bilateral Economic Relations with the Middle East, that a Law - that was published on the 20th Feb 2023 from the Iraqi government - prohibits the sale, import and production of alcohol in Iraq. Thus, is affecting the export business of many members of the Association of Greek Spirits and Spirits Producers (SEAOP). It is still not clear yet how its implementation will proceed, however we have asked the Greek authorities to act and help us prevent the loss of a significant business for our products.

We would like to stress that:

- the matter does not concern individual companies but the totality of exports of Greek-produced alcoholic beverages to Iraq.
- Iraq is an extremely important export destination for Greek Alcoholic Beverages, as it is the 2nd country in the world for Greece's spirit exports. In particular, in 2022, 28.6% of the value and 25.6% of the quantity of Greek exports of alcoholic beverages, was directed only to IRAQ. (source: EUROSTAT).

As a member of Spirits Europe, SEAOP kindly ask you to draw the attention of the EU relevant authorities, as this may be affecting also other members too.

Kindly keep us informed of any relevant action or information. We are always at your disposal for any additional clarification.

Yours sincerely,
for the Greek Federation Of Spirits Producers

Haris Mavrakis
Chairman