



WiDEN
Wine Distilleries European Network

The European Voice of Wine Distilleries

WiDEN – Wine Distilleries European Network was forged in 2009 with a razor-sharp purpose: to fiercely protect, relentlessly elevate, and champion the European viticultural distilling sector on the global stage. Our roots trace back to a groundbreaking 2006 strategic lobbying initiative masterminded and coordinated by Marco Bertagni during his tenure as Director of AssoDistil. In a historic alliance, pioneering viticultural distilleries from seven nations—Portugal, France, Hungary, Greece, Cyprus, Spain, and Italy—joined forces as “**The Seven Sisters.**”

This united front launched a decisive campaign that completely reshaped the 2008 Common Market Organization (CMO) reform, turning a severe industry threat into a monumental triumph. The outcome was unprecedented: wine distillation emerged as the *only* sector across all agricultural CMOs to successfully retain its production-related support measures. Building on this historic victory, the distilleries institutionalized their alliance by founding WiDEN, seamlessly outsourcing its powerhouse management and operational coordination to the experts at **Bertagni Consulting Srl**.

A History of Protection, Cohesion, and Powerhouse Results

Since 2009, WiDEN has been the ultimate advocate for European viticultural distillers, delivering high-impact victories and cementing the sector’s position as a strategic, indispensable cornerstone of the European wine and agro-industrial value chain.

Our track record of tangible results includes:

Securing Critical Support: Locking in vital support schemes for producing alcohol from wine by-products (grape pomace and wine lees) destined for high-value industrial and fuel sectors.

Shielding the Industry: Defeating recurring, hostile proposals aimed at slashing or dismantling essential support measures.

Driving the Circular Economy: Successfully positioning wine distillation as a textbook, front-running model of the modern circular economy.

Rapid Emergency Response: Spearheading the mobilization and reintroduction of exceptional crisis distillation measures to stabilize the market during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supercharging Green Energy: Securing advanced biofuel status for wine-based ethanol, locking down double-counting eligibility under the high-stakes **Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)**.

Equalizing Industry Standards: Championing and achieving complete alignment of support levels for wine lees with those granted to grape pomace.

A Powerhouse European Network Serving the Sector

Today, WiDEN charges forward with unshakeable determination, deeper member unity, and an influential, commanding presence across Europe.

The core nations driving our Network forward include:

- **France**
- **Spain**
- **Portugal**
- **Italy**
- **Hungary**

WiDEN is actively shaping the future—safeguarding global competitiveness, pioneering industrial sustainability, and serving as an elite catalyst for Europe's circular economy and energy transition.

WiDEN's Mission

To relentlessly defend, empower, and champion European wine distilleries by embedding their massive economic, environmental, and strategic value directly into the heart of European Union agricultural, industrial, and energy policies.

Coordination

WiDEN is strategically powered and coordinated on an outsourced basis by **Bertagni Consulting Srl** under the dynamic leadership of **Marco Bertagni**, President of the Network.

He drives the organization's high-level management, spearheads international representation, and commands its critical lobbying operations at the highest tiers of European governance.