

2020



FIVS

ANNUAL REPORT



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First edition

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Authors: Bennett Caplan, Laura Gelezuinas, Karen Gerónimo, Greg Hodson, and Laurel Parker.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFED	French Association for Bottlers and Distributors
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
CODEX	Codex Alimentarius
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
IWTS	International Wine Technical Summit
MRLs	Maximum Residue Limits
OIV	International Organisation for the Vine and Wine
PRESCO	Presidential Council
STC	Scientific and Technical Committee
TF	FIVS Codex Task Force
UN SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
US	United States of America
WHO	World Health Organization
WSTA	Wine and Spirit Trade Association
WWTG	World Wine Trade Group



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

1. A Message from the President

To say that 2020 was a challenging year is a huge understatement, for obvious reasons. It began in a relatively predictable way but news of the pandemic soon dominated the headlines and by the time our Presidential Council met at the beginning of March, we were forced to rethink the entire year, beginning with the decision to move our planned conference in Brussels to an online symposium. Nevertheless, FIVS put in another great performance, demonstrating tremendous agility in its ability to change plans, adopt new technologies and execute well to tight timelines. We had tremendous support and encouragement from our members throughout!

Our overarching goal (and achievement) was to review our activities in the light of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). This was the major work item in our online Spring symposium sessions and the publication of the resulting brochure was a highlight of our virtual round tables later in the year. Both sets of meetings received very positive feedback from those who participated. For many years, sustainability has been at the centre of our activity for the global industry, and our organizational structure reflects the triple bottom line approach of social, environmental, and economic sustainability. However, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of the UN SDGs and it was essential to be able to present our efforts in a way that would resonate with those who are familiar with the SDG approach to encouraging sustainable development.

Among many enhancements to our communications platforms, we added a COVID-19 page to our website, to serve as an information hub to members and others concerning the responses to the pandemic that were being implanted in different countries around the world.

Our Codex Alimentarius Task Force met just about every month. In the short time it has existed, it has confirmed that many initiatives and discussions take place within the Codex system that have the potential to impact the alcohol beverage sector. Most of the face-to-face meetings of Codex for 2020 were cancelled, but FIVS, as an official observer, was able to attend online meetings and to submit written comments on a variety of important topics.

We were encouraged to be able to participate on behalf of the global wine industry in the World Health Organization (WHO)-coordinated consultations with economic operators, aimed at strengthening efforts to reduce harmful use of alcohol.

We were also pleased to engage in constructive dialogue with our friends at the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) and to use both organisations' alignments with the UN SDGs to identify promising areas for more active collaboration in 2021.

FIVS-Abridge (Wine) and (Spirits) continued to expand both in terms of the markets covered but also the information presented under various topics. Collaborations with international bodies such as OIV,

World Wine Trade Group (WWTG), International Wine Technical Summit (IWTS) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Wine Regulatory Forum (WRF) also made progress and subscriptions to the products showed encouraging trends.

We were delighted to welcome new members to the FIVS family during the year: QazSpirits and Chainvine. We are looking forward to welcoming them more personally at one of our upcoming meetings, when we are able to meet face-to-face again!

These are just some of the highlights - a more detailed review is presented on the following pages. We finished this most difficult of years in better shape and stronger than we began it, which is a remarkable testimony to the commitment of our members and of course to the continuing dedication of our excellent Secretariat!

It continues to be a great honour and privilege to serve as your President!



Greg Hodson
President

HIGHLIGHTS

+300



Notable Policy Developments
and Alerts sent out

25

conference calls

for Working Groups
and Committees



68

comments submitted to the OIV



7

comments
submitted to



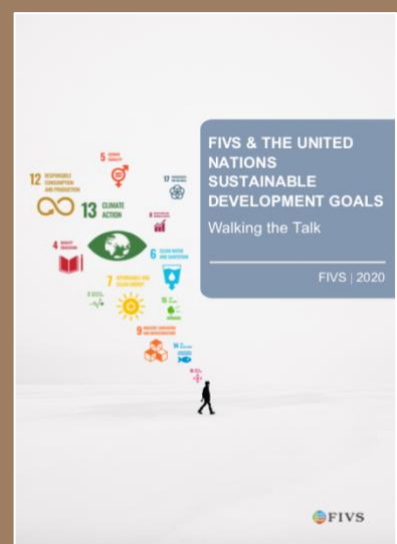
Codex Alimentarius

Website fully available
in 3 languages



2

new members



Publication of the
SDG Brochure

Basecamp as new
working platform



Redesign



1



Sustainability
Symposium

1

Round Table
Series

UN SDGs

3. FIVS & the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

The UN SDGs are a set of 17 goals that aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and secure peace and prosperity for everyone around the world by 2030. They were unanimously adopted by all 193 United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015. The achievement of the 17 goals and the 169 associated targets, relies on close collaboration between the private and public sectors to advance towards global environmental, social, and economic sustainability. The UN SDGs have also become accepted as a universal language for all actors to discuss their sustainable practices and monitor their achievements.

In light of this, FIVS decided to focus throughout 2020 on reviewing its activities in comparison with the UN SDGs. The spring Symposium brought all the working groups and committee members together to examine each group's work in



relation to the UN SDGs, and during the autumn Round Tables, the result of this project was launched in the form of a brochure (see Sections 3.1 and 3.2 for more information about the meetings). The brochure, entitled [*FIVS and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – Walking the Talk*](#), showcases FIVS's commitment to sustainable development over the past 15-20 years. FIVS's three working groups dedicated to environmental, social, and economic sustainability, its scientific and technical committee, and Codex Alimentarius task force were and continue to be the driving forces behind FIVS's initiatives and outputs dedicated to the promotion of sustainable practices and together cover an impressive total of 13 out of the 17 UN SDGs. Bearing in mind that the membership of FIVS encompasses approximately 75% of the wine traded globally, this amounts to a resounding commitment from the majority of wine producers around the world to conduct their business sustainably.

3.1 FIVS Virtual Sustainability Symposium



Traditionally held in Brussels, Belgium, the FIVS spring meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, members convened from 23 April to 20 May for the FIVS Virtual Sustainability Symposium. This event consisted of five meetings dedicated to the Economic, Environmental, and Social Sustainability Working Groups, as well as the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) and Codex Task Force. The meetings were led by the co-chairs in each case to examine how each group’s activities aligned with the UN SDGs. The results of the meeting were translated into a matrix, serving as a basis for the FIVS UN SDGs Brochure.

For the first time, FIVS held its General Assembly (the 76th) virtually on 06 May. Members adopted the new FIVS by-laws, approved the change of FIVS’s headquarters in Paris, adopted the budgetary report from 2019, and reviewed the report of the Presidential Council (PRESCO) Financial Subgroup regarding the maintenance of FIVS’s long-term financial health.

In addition, FIVS members reappointed as Treasurer Michel-Laurent Pinat, Legal Secretary General of French Association for Bottlers and Distributors. Jeffrey Clarke, General Manager Advocacy and General Counsel of New Zealand Winegrowers was elected as Vice-President and Charles Jefferson, Federal & International Public Policy at the California Wine Institute, was appointed as Assistant Secretary. Rachel Triggs, General Manager, Corporate Affairs and Regulation at Wine Australia, was confirmed in the position of Member-at-Large.

3.2 FIVS Virtual Round Tables



These four meetings investigated the forces driving change in the industry: the UN SDGs, e-commerce, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Five guest speakers shared their insights, including:

- John Morris, Founding Partner and CEO of 17 Asset Management;
- Jon Moramarco, Managing Partner of bw166 LLC;
- Wayne Duan, Vice-President of e-commerce at Constellation Brands;
- Benjamin Cook, Climate Scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Columbia University;
- Eric Crampton, Chief Economist at The New Zealand Initiative.

The first round table focused on the UN SDGs and their importance and relevance for the alcohol beverage industry. On this occasion the FIVS UN SDGs Brochure was launched, showcasing FIVS’s alignment with the SDGs and confirming its continuing commitment to the overall sustainability of the alcohol beverage sector.



SOCIAL

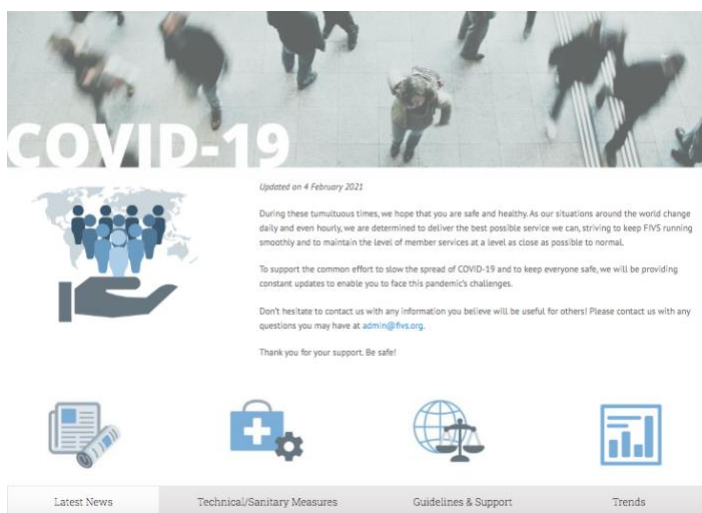
4. Social Sustainability

As FIVS worked to present its ongoing activities against the grid of the UN SDGs, the Social Sustainability Working Group concurred that FIVS is engaged in encouraging the responsible use of alcohol, together with education for sustainable lifestyles, promoting social inclusion, and even reducing recycling and reusing waste. Successfully led by its Chair, WSTA's Simon Stannard, and Assistant Chair, AFED's Michel-Laurent Pinat, the WG also created the WHO Subgroup to respond to WHO's consultation with Economic Operators aimed at strengthening the implementation of the WHO's Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol.



4.1 Covid-19

The first months of 2020 witnessed the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and imposed a drastic change on everyone's lifestyle and on the world itself. FIVS responded by creating a [page](#) on its website to provide members and partners with resources and developments showing how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the industry.



The resources—which should not be considered as legal advice but intended for informational purposes only—are categorised into four main topics: the most recent news and trends from around the world, technical and sanitary measures, national guidelines, and the support provided by governments and international agencies.

The webpage is updated in three languages (English, French, and Spanish) as new information becomes available during these rapidly changing times.

4.2 World Health Organization Consultation

The WHO [solicited feedback](#) from member states, international organisations, and non-state actors regarding its working document for the development of an action plan to strengthen the implementation of the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol. This document will move through various stages until the Action Plan is adopted by the WHO. FIVS gathered views from members and submitted [comments](#) to the WHO about its [working document](#). The comments of other stakeholders will be evaluated when they are released in early 2021.

The WHO [held a dialogue](#) (virtually) with representatives of economic operators in the alcohol beverage industry on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on alcohol production, marketing, distribution, and sales. FIVS members prepared for and participated in all sessions of the meeting.

4.3 FIVS-Assure

[FIVS-Assure](#) is an online database that is accessed from our website and is freely accessible to all visitors. It collates information about social responsibility initiatives and good practices in the wine, spirits, and beer sectors from around the world.

In 2019, it was agreed that FIVS-Assure should be redesigned along the lines of proposals prepared by the Secretariat to make a more meaningful contribution in promoting responsible consumption. A sneak preview of the improved database was given during the Virtual Round Tables. The enhanced product is expected to launch formally early in 2021. It will feature a more user-friendly interface, an interactive map showcasing national drinking guidelines, a section on featured initiatives, and the initiatives database itself.

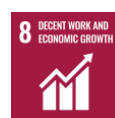


ECONOMIC

5. Economic Sustainability

Economic sustainability issues such as the facilitation of wine trade and the elimination of unjustified trade barriers are handled by the FIVS Economic Sustainability (ECON) Working Group (WG). The WG was delighted to welcome Katherine Bedard, Director of International Public Policy of Wine Institute, as its new co-chair alongside Ignacio Sánchez Recarte, Secretary-General of the Comité européen des entreprises vins. The working group confirmed its commitment to the UN SDGs by supporting sustainable production across the board, enhancing economic performance, as well as evaluation and adoption of appropriate new technologies and protection of private intellectual property rights in the global marketplace, e.g. from counterfeiting and other fraud.

Relevant UN SDGs



Notable topics covered by the group included:

- *Ingredient and Nutritional Labelling and Potential Impacts on Trade*: Reports were disseminated regarding, inter alia, the European Union (EU), Australian, and the United States (US) markets. In addition, the STC's work on reviewing barriers to trade arising from voluntary and/or mandatory label energy declarations (see section 7.1) was supported. Proposals for Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) were also followed.
- *European Union Farm to Fork Strategy*: In collaboration with the Environmental Sustainability WG, the group responded to an EU questionnaire on the use of the EU Product Environmental Footprint methodology.
- *Brexit*: Members were informed regarding possible implications of Brexit for the wine trade, including VI-1 form requirements for EU and non-EU exporters, procedures for laboratory accreditation, labelling requirements, customs declarations, tariffs, and certification of organic wine.
- *Warnings Concerning Alcohol Consumption During Pregnancy*: New developments concerning pregnancy warnings around the world were kept under review, including the adoption of a mandatory pregnancy warning by Food Standards Australia New Zealand which will come into effect on 31 July 2023.

Russian Legislative Proposal on Wine Growing and Winemaking: Russian Federal Law No. 468-FZ, which was scheduled to come into effect on 26 June 2020, was tracked. Concerns were raised regarding the proposed law's approach to geographical indications, labelling, and water addition. FIVS members were encouraged to share this information with their respective governments.

5.1 Subgroup on Maximum Residue Limits

A new subgroup dedicated to crop protection products and maximum residue limits (MRLs) was launched. It is tasked with reviewing actions by governments and institutions to control the availability, use, and testing of important plant protection substances and to set strict MRLs. The subgroup works in close collaboration with the FIVS STC and the Codex Task Force when relevant, and provides a quick and efficient coordination mechanism, allowing FIVS members to alert others on new developments in this area. Some of the issues raised by the subgroup include:

- Commercial requests for total pesticide concentration in the EU;
- Indian government proposals to modify MRLs for a number of agrichemicals;
- Upcoming MRL changes in the EU; and
- The creation of an EU Mancozeb task force.

5.2 Electronic Certification Project

The electronic certification project was initiated to examine the advantages and feasibility of an e-certification system for the wine sector. It identified the following possible benefits:

- Reduction in time and budgetary resources for industry and governments.
- Help in reducing fraud and providing reassurance to importing regulators.
- Help with COVID-19 disruptions.
- Correction of minor errors.

The WG is also an active member of the OIV electronic WG on electronic certification, providing input on behalf of the industry.

5.3 FIVS-Abridge

FIVS-Abridge is a comprehensive database of alcohol beverage regulations and trade agreements from around the world. While the website's primary users have been alcohol beverage producers, government regulators and universities have increasingly come to rely on the database in recent years. Significant developments included:

- **Increased Market Coverage:** The coverage of key topics (such as labelling and production) has expanded and FIVS-Abridge Wine now provides information for 41 markets, representing regulations from over 70 countries and guidelines/recommendations from four international organisations.
- **Collaboration on FIVS Initiatives:** Staff ensured that FIVS-Abridge's regulatory structure complemented that of FIVS-APACE, a comprehensive online information source for additives and processing aids that have been approved for winemaking use around the world.
- **FIVS-Abridge Spirits:** Regulatory offerings on composition, definition, labelling, production, and tariff information were significantly expanded. Currently, FIVS-Abridge provides information for spirit products in 39 markets, which cover regulations from over 60 countries and guidelines/recommendations from two international organisations.



- *Engagement with the International Wine Technical Summit:* This relationship continued, and there was a presentation to government officials during the virtual IWTS Seminar in June.
- *Engagement with the World Wine Trade Group:* Under the terms of this agreement, WWTG members were able to use FIVS-Abridge to assess the regulations of those countries seeking to join the organization. FIVS-Abridge staff continues to work with government regulators to update the London Winemaking Matrix (a compendium that enables a comparison of processing aids and additives among WWTG members).

ENVIRONMENTAL

6. Environmental Sustainability

The Environmental Sustainability (ENVIRO) WG continued to be led by its two co-chairs, Patricio Parra, Managing Director of R&D at Consortium Vinos de Chile, and Chris Savage, E. & J. Gallo's Senior Director of Global Environmental Health & Safety. During the FIVS Symposium, it became apparent that its work has been closely aligned with many of the UN SDGs over the years, contributing to protecting the planet, as defined by the UN SDGs. The WG intends to intensify its efforts going forward and focused on the following issues during the year:



- *Global Wine Producers' Environmental Sustainability Principles (GWPESP)*: A review process of these principles (which promote the idea that the continued health of the wine sector rests entirely on natural resources that are successfully integrated with sound ecological processes) was initiated, to ensure they are aligned with today's environmental standards and expectations.
- *Climate Change*: It was decided to establish a forum within FIVS to coordinate global efforts to prepare the industry for the likely effects of climate change on viticulture (a pressing issue for the industry) and to minimise its own potential for negative impact on climate.
- *EU Product Environmental Footprint*: See the entry under Section 5 above for the joint work conducted with the Economic Sustainability WG.
- *Porto Protocol*: The FIVS Secretariat established a communication channel with the Porto Protocol¹ staff in order to exchange information and to investigate possible synergies.
- *The Future of Wine 2020 Conference—26-27 November*: Laura Gelezuinas of the FIVS Secretariat attended this virtual conference, whose focus was how the wine industry can respond to sustainability pressures and create business opportunities.

6.1 FIVS International Sustainable Winegrowing Competition

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WG decided to postpone the second FIVS International Sustainable Winegrowing Competition. Following the Botanical Research Institute of Texas's decision to no longer be involved with the award, the WG is considering how to reshape it for the future, and hopes to announce plans for the new Competition in 2021.

¹ The Porto Protocol is a non-profit corporate institution that is committed to mitigating climate change under the leadership of the wine sector.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

7. Scientific and Technical Expertise

The STC continued to act as one of the most significant gatherings of industry technical competence at the international level. The committee is chaired by Jonathan Breach, Global Head of Regulatory Affairs & Compliance at Accolade Wines, and co-chaired by Jennifer Turner, Head of Technical Policy at WSTA, and Paul Huckaba, Senior Manager of Analytical, Microbiology, and Quality Assurance Laboratories at Bronco Wine Company.

Relevant UN SDGs



The STC focuses on encouraging appropriate regulation of alcoholic beverages around the world based on sound science. This is being achieved, in part, through producing and sharing technical papers with international fora such as APEC, IWTS, and WWTG to highlight the unique product characteristics of wine.

7.1 STC Papers on Significant Topics

Since its inception, the STC has produced over 19 papers in support of the FIVS Good Regulatory Practice Principles for Wine, most of which are freely available on the FIVS website. A new paper entitled *Best Practice Principles for Measurement of Total Sulfur Dioxide in Wine* was added to the collection.

The STC also produced an export risk assessment for potential barriers to trade arising from different countries' approaches to voluntary and/or mandatory label energy declarations/claims. It can be very unclear for some jurisdictions whether a calorie declaration is regarded as a prohibited health or nutrition claim. Information obtained has been compared with entries in FIVS-Abridge as part of this process. The ECON WG is reviewing the document and will make it available to FIVS members once finalised.

7.2 FIVS-APACE

See below Section 7.4.

7.3 Collaboration with the International Wine Technical Summit (IWTS)

FIVS and its members provided important content during this year's virtual meetings:

- An overview of FIVS-Abridge and an update about good regulatory practices.
- A presentation of a paper on the topic of "Absolute vs Relative Risk", a subject that is being worked on in the STC.

- A presentation on the usefulness (or otherwise) of tests that are often required to be performed to complete certificates of analysis – building on previous STC work.
- A review of the work conducted by AWRI on a laboratory “ring test” that began in the context of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation’s Wine Regulatory Forum.

7.4 FIVS-Oenoppia Partnership

The FIVS Secretariat and President held meetings with the leadership of Oenoppia to discuss further collaborative efforts. Discussions focused on enriching the FIVS-APACE database with more detailed information, including some that may be useful as ingredient labelling for wine becomes a more common regulatory requirement globally.

7.5 Fire Impact Subgroup

As the world witnessed an increased number of wildfires over the past year, the STC created a subgroup focused on fire impacts. The group provides a global venue for sharing information and working collaboratively on pertinent technical issues, including effects on the sensory characteristics in wine, and analytical optimization.



CODEx TASK FORCE

8. FIVS Codex Task Force

Relevant UN SDGs



The FIVS Codex Task Force (TF) was operational for its second year, under the chairmanship of Tim Ryan (E. & J. Gallo). With Codex Alimentarius increasingly engaging in matters of relevance to alcohol beverages, in particular labelling, the TF was very busy. It monitored all Codex committees whose activities could impact the alcohol beverage industry and produced multiple position papers. Members also attended Codex meetings in person and virtually. The TF also considered its work in relation to the UN SDGs and noted that, since FIVS is an active observer to Codex, it helps FIVS to promote appropriate and harmonised wine regulation around the world.

8.1 Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The TF submitted five position papers:

- *Codex Circular Letter CL 2019/82-FL requesting information on innovative practices and new technologies in food labelling & Codex Consultation Paper on internet sales/e-commerce*: FIVS expressed general support for the idea that mandatory label information should be available to a consumer at the time of purchase, whether in a retail environment or an online store. FIVS also suggested that Codex should develop broad criteria for the use of technology for the provision of information to consumers, allowing flexibility to national governments.
- *Codex Circular Letter 2019/86-FL requesting comments on the labelling of alcoholic beverages*: Inter alia, FIVS expressed its preference that new work related to the labelling of alcohol beverages not be initiated.
- *Codex Consultation Paper on allergen labelling*: FIVS expressed support for the position that processing aids should not be included in the definition of “ingredient” and that labelling decisions should be based on sound, science-based risk assessment.
- *FIVS Comments on Codex Circular Letter CL 2020/54/OCS-FL requesting comments on Front-of-Pack Nutritional Labelling (FOPNL)*: FIVS supported the idea that alcohol beverages in relation to FOPNL should be excluded from FOPNL.

8.2 Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

FIVS responded to Circular Letter [CL 2020/41/OCS-FICS](#) requesting comments on the *Discussion Paper on the Role of CCFICS with Respect to Tackling Food Fraud in the Context of Food Safety and Fair Practices in Food*. FIVS expressed its support for the general objectives that focus on prevention and control of food fraud.

8.3 Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

FIVS submitted comments on draft guidelines aimed at assisting African countries with the harmonisation of their national food products legislation. The following points were highlighted:

- Certain products are considered low-risk foods and should not be subject to unnecessary analytical testing.
- The establishment of limits and testing should be guided by risk, not least in the case of wine ([*FIVS-WWTG Paper: Microbiologically, Wine is a Low Food Safety Risk Consumer Product*](#)).

8.4 Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

A FIVS delegation participated in the 43rd session of the CAC.



COOPERATION

9. Cooperation with International Organisations

True to its commitment to multilateral collaboration, FIVS continued to enhance its partnerships and outreach activities with various organisations such as the World Wine Trade Group, the International Wine Technical Summit, Oenoppia, and Wine in Moderation.

9.1 The International Organisation of Vine and Wine

9.1.1 FIVS Delegations to OIV Meetings and Working Groups

FIVS attended the OIV Expert Group Meetings, having submitted consensus comments on the 68 Draft Resolutions at Steps 3 and 5 which were discussed. A FIVS delegation was also present for the OIV's Commission meetings in October and November. In addition, FIVS joined the OIV's electronic working groups on electronic certification and on the definition of "Brut Nature".

9.1.2 Cooperation around the UN SDGs

The FIVS Working Group chairs, assisted by the FIVS Secretariat, met with OIV representatives to discuss areas for future collaboration, using the two organisations' alignment with the UN SDGs as a starting point. In 2021, FIVS will work collaboratively with the OIV on mutually beneficial projects that have been identified through these discussions.

9.2 Reims School of Wine Law Program (A Jean Monnet Chair)

9.2.1 Jean-Jacques Bouffard Scholarship

Like many other events this year, this programme was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope the situation will improve soon so that the scholar nominated for 2020 will be able to attend the programme in 2021!

9.2.2 FIVS-Abridge Competition

Unfortunately, the competition was postponed, once again because of COVID-19. Nevertheless, it is planned to organise a virtual edition in the spring of 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS

10. Communications

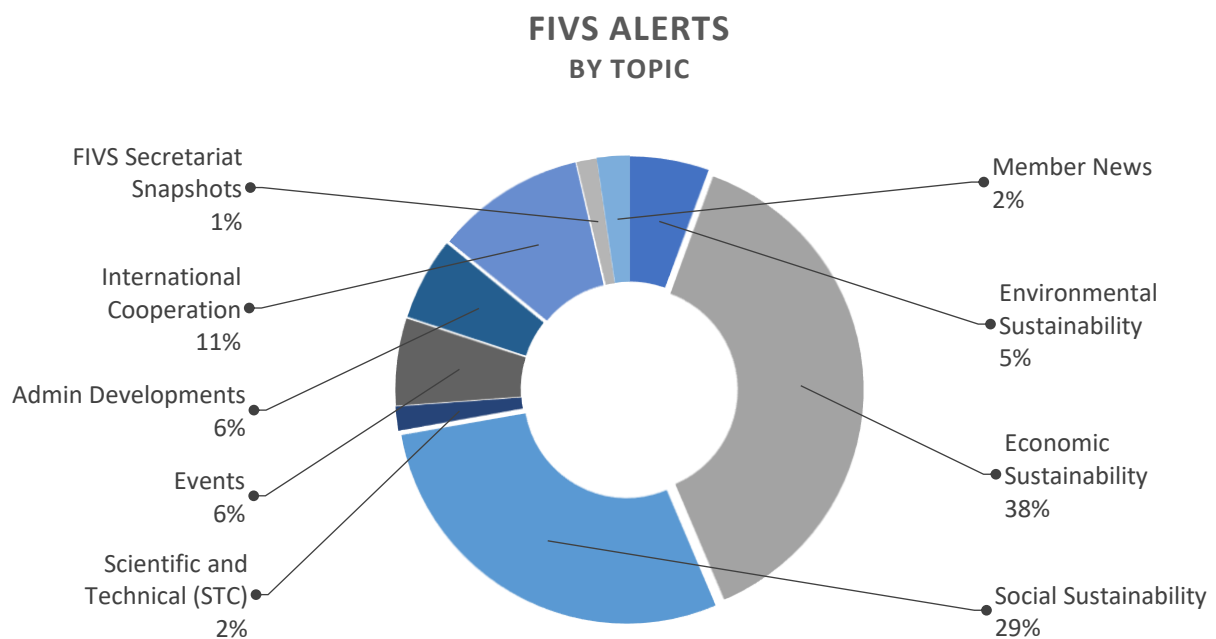
10.1 FIVS Website

In addition to the enhancements mentioned elsewhere in this report, the FIVS Secretariat continued enhancing the website by:

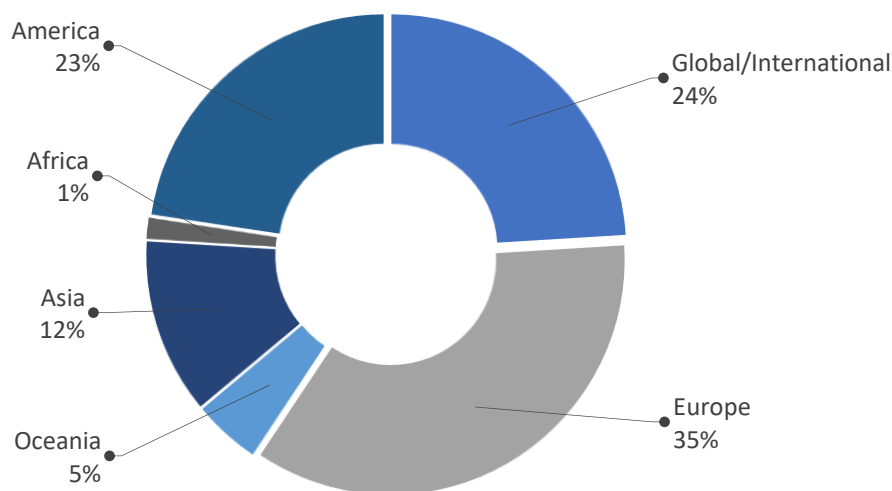
- Finalising the complete translation of the whole site in Spanish and French.
- Polishing the presentation of the homepage as well as the “Become a Member” page.
- Redesigning the layout of the “Overview”, “Structure”, and “Members” pages.
- Updating the “By-laws” page in English and French with the newly adopted version.
- Adding Oenoppia to our Partnerships page.

FIVS also began using Basecamp, a project management and team communication tool. All the working groups, task forces, and committees now have their own areas on the product, allowing members to communicate directly with each other, raise alerts, and organise the work for particular projects.

10.2 FIVS Alerts and Notable Policy Developments Newsletters



FIVS ALERTS BY REGION



The Secretariat sent over 250 “Notable Policy Development Around the World” items (describing key sustainability matters for the wine, beer, and spirits sectors) and over 60 “FIVS alerts” (to request member action) for member consideration. The Secretariat designed a new, more user-friendly layout for these communications.

A separate newsletter focusing only on COVID-19 matters was created to respond to the rapid spread of the pandemic and keep recipients informed about developments on the topic that are relevant to the sector.

10.3 In the Media

In accordance with its long-established communication strategy, FIVS does not seek to be in the media. However, news about the Federation did appear on the web during the year:

- Lux Portugal: [*Casa Relvas distinguida com medalha no concurso internacional BRIT/FIVS Announce 2020 International Sustainable Winegrowing*](#), 07 January 2020.
- Food, Quality and Safety: [*Here's To the Quality and Safety of Beer, Wine, and Liquor*](#), 16 June 2020.
- Wine Industry Advisor: [*FIVS Virtual Round Table Showcases Long-term Commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goals*](#), 28 October 2020.

FIVS INSIDE TRACK

11. FIVS Inside Track

11.1 New Members

We were delighted to have the following join the FIVS family:



QazSpirits

Full Member: Established in 2017, QazSpirits is the Kazakhstani non-profit association that represents 80% of the country's spirits industry, including manufacturers and wholesale distributors. Its objectives are to promote the values of social responsibility, curb illicit alcohol production and trade, modernise regulations to reduce the harmful use of alcohol in Kazakhstan, and build meaningful dialogue between business, government, and civil society. QazSpirits joined FIVS as a full member.



Chainvine

Affiliate Member: Founded in 2015, Chainvine uses blockchain distributed ledger technology and other information technologies to offer solutions to manage entity, identity, and digital assets to ensure that supply chains work in a transparent and intuitive fashion. Chainvine has worked with various winemakers and alcohol beverage merchants to address counterfeit and fraudulent activity and is currently working with industry, government, and academia on the future uses of origin data in import and export compliance matters. Chainvine joined FIVS as an affiliate member.

11.2 Presidential Council

The PRESCO focused on the following matters: obtaining member acceptance of the revised FIVS by-laws; strengthening partnerships with key industry actors; taking steps to ensure FIVS's long-term financial soundness; bolstering the work of committees, working groups, and the Codex Alimentarius Task Force; as well as seeking to attract new members. FIVS owes a debt to the PRESCO members, who dedicated time and effort to ensure that the Federation serves its members optimally.

11.3 President

Over the past year, FIVS President Greg Hodson led efforts to demonstrate the close alignment of FIVS activities with many United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Working with Laura from the Secretariat, he oversaw the creation of *FIVS & the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – Walking the Talk*, mentioned above in Section 3. Separately, he also headed a Presidential Council exercise to examine options for raising the Federation’s revenue—an effort that will continue into 2021. He chaired regular meetings of the Presidential Council and weekly sessions of the Secretariat Team to ensure the proper functioning of the Federation. He also reviewed many FIVS initiatives and papers, continually suggesting new strategies and ideas. Although in-person meetings were not possible during the past year due to the pandemic, Greg met virtually with members to stay abreast of their situations, and with others in the industry to encourage their engagement with FIVS.

11.4 Secretariat

This year was a novel one as the Secretariat moved online with the rest of the world. At the same time, FIVS staff was becoming accustomed to its new headquarters after many years working at rue d'Aguesseau. Moreover, we welcomed Karen Geronimo to our staff; an easy adjustment given that she had previously worked with Laura Gelezuinas.

Laura continued supporting the increasingly active Environmental and Economic Sustainability Working Groups and the STC. She also deepened her expertise on Codex Alimentarius-related matters as she supported the FIVS Codex Task Force. Karen became more acquainted with the challenges facing the industry in the social arena as she staffed the Social Sustainability working group. She also handled communication-related matters of the Federation. Both Laura and Karen represented FIVS in alcohol sector meetings.

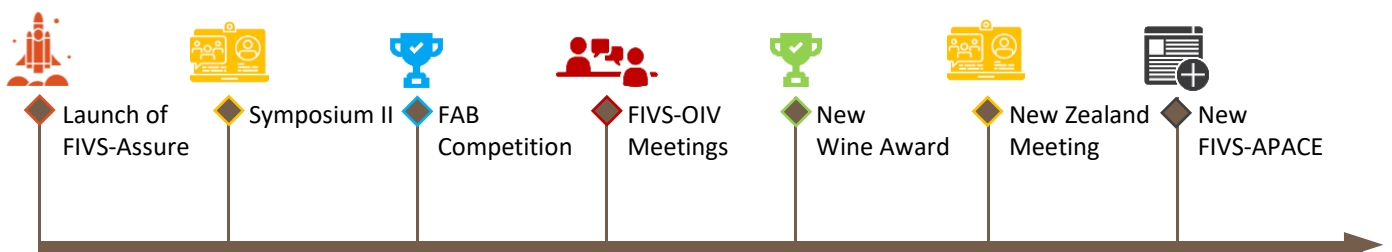
Laurel Parker continued to manage and improve the FIVS-Abridge database (See Section 5.3). She also assisted Laura and Karen in developing the FIVS meetings which were held virtually this year. As in previous years, Laurel deepened her understanding of the industry by handling member inquiries on cutting-edge regulatory and international agreement matters.

Bennett Caplan assisted Greg Hodson with projects aimed at providing added value to FIVS members. He organised FIVS’s member meetings in April and October, ensuring that FIVS was being responsive to membership issues. He also supported FIVS’s work in its interactions with the WHO and the OIV.

PLANS

12. Plans for 2021

FIVS has many exciting plans for 2021!



- The second Virtual Sustainability Symposium will be held. The meetings will examine how FIVS and its members can improve alignment of their efforts with the UN SDGs.
- Depending on the state of the world, it is hoped to hold an in-person conference in December in New Zealand.
- Work will continue or conclude on many exciting initiatives: the launch of the new FIVS-Assure database; preparing a new version of FIVS-APACE; kicking off a new climate change forum; enhancing collaboration with the OIV; holding a FIVS-Abridge competition; and relaunching FIVS's International Sustainable Wine Award.

Although 2020 was a challenging year, FIVS proved its resilience and commitment to a more sustainable and engaged alcohol beverage industry. The federation looks forward to furthering its work on SDGs and in serving member interests, especially by fostering a global dialogue among industry members, governments, and international organisations.



1, cour du Havre, 75008 Paris, France

+33 (0)1 87 40 57 26

admin@fivs.org | www.fivs.org