

FROM: THE RT HON JACK STRAW MP

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Mr Mirosław Zeilinski
 Director Customs Policy, Legislation & Tariffs
 European Commission
 Taxation and Customs Union DG
 B-1049 Bruxelles

29th March 2013

Dear Mr Zeilinski,

I recently wrote to your colleague Mr Heinz Zourek in my capacity as a Consultant to the British commodity firm, E D & F Man ("MAN"). I was appointed to this role in April 2011, having obtained the appropriate consents in respect of former Ministers of the Crown.

My letter to Mr Zourek, dated 3rd February, raised with him the issue of the Commission's interpretation of Regulations relating to inward processing (for re-export) of raw sugar, and in particular the provisions concerning 'equivalent goods'. [*attach this letter for your information*].

Mr Zourek kindly responded to me on 8th February and advised that he did not feel, at that stage, the need to meet, since, in his view, the regime for the inward processing of raw sugar was well explained in Commission guidance which he directed us to and advised we look through. [*attach the reply from Mr Zourek*].

My colleagues at E D & F Man and I have reviewed the documents Mr Zourek referred to closely. After careful consideration, we remain of the view that the Commission guidance is too unclear as to address fully our issues of concern. As such I would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss MAN's queries in detail.

As I explained in my original letter to Mr Zourek, the work of all the companies who supply sugar is dependent on there being clarity from the Commission on the issue of how the inward processing of sugar on the equivalence system should operate. As it stands MAN and others are not clear how the system is intended to work by the Commission and consequently it is very hard for any company to operate it. Since the Commission is responsible for the Regulations and their smooth operation we would like to meet with you and discuss our concerns, in particular what the Commission intends their guidelines to mean, in practice.

I would be available for a meeting in Brussels at your convenience. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

My email is [REDACTED] and my mobile phone is [REDACTED]. In my office, the best contact is [REDACTED], who can be reached via [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

A copy of this letter is being sent to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the UK Permanent Representation to the EU.

Yours sincerely,



JACK STRAW

FROM: THE RT HON JACK STRAW MP

Mr Heinz Zourek
Director-General
DG Taxation and Customs Union
European Commission
B-1049 Bruxelles

3rd February 2013

Dear Mr Zourek,

May I, first, send you my greetings. You may recall that I was the British Foreign Secretary for five years (2001-2006). I held other senior Cabinet positions in the British Government, as Home Secretary, Leader of the House of Commons, and Justice Secretary, between 1997 and 2010. I remain an active member of the British House of Commons as the Member of Parliament for Blackburn.

In April 2011 (having obtained the appropriate consents in respect of former Ministers of the Crown) I was appointed as a Consultant to E D & F MAN Holdings Ltd, ("MAN"), a long-established firm of commodity traders, based in London. (My predecessor in this position was the Rt Hon Lord McNally, who had to relinquish the post upon becoming a Justice Minister, and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party of the Coalition Government in the House of Lords)

I am now writing to you to ask if you would be good enough to meet with me to discuss the Commission's interpretation of the Regulations which relate to the inward processing (for re-export) of raw sugar, and in particular the provisions which concern "equivalent goods". The relevant provisions are principally to be found in Annex 74 of Regulation 2454/2003.

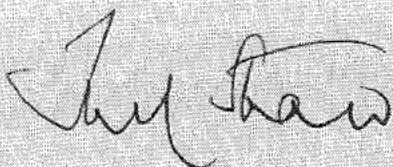
[REDACTED]

The current and future work of all companies who supply sugar (and whose contribution to the operation of an effective market in this vital commodity is so vital) is directly dependent on there being greater clarity from the Commission on the issue of how the inward processing of sugar on the equivalence system should operate in practice. At present, a lack of clarity about how the system is intended to work makes it very difficult for any company to operate it. Since the Commission is responsible for the Regulations and the smooth operation of markets in the various foodstuffs covered by the Regulations, a steer from you and your officials would be very helpful.

I would be available for a meeting in Brussels at your convenience. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

My direct email is [REDACTED] and my cell phone [REDACTED]. In my office, the best contact is [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



JACK STRAW