



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE

The Director-General

Brussels,
TRADE.DGA2.E.2 [REDACTED]
(2019) 2444715

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter to Commissioner Malmström of 11 March 2019 relative to traceability requirements affecting exports of EU-manufactured tobacco products to the Russian Federation. Commissioner Malmström has asked me to reply to it.

DG TRADE and DG SANTE closely work together on questions of technical barriers to trade which may arise from traceability requirements for tobacco. We are fully aware of Russia's introduction of a mandatory system of labelling and traceability requirements and have serious concerns about Russia's approach to implementing this policy. It appears to raise questions of compliance with WTO rules on transparency, consultation and appropriate transition periods, a situation which has also arisen in other sectors, such as clothing, tyres and electronics. In this regard, we will continue to work with other WTO Members in order to request that Russia comply with its WTO commitments. This would be the most appropriate and most effective solution to the issue and would eliminate or reduce the impact of the related barriers to trade that you have highlighted.

DG SANTE will separately respond to you with respect to your questions concerning the EU system of tobacco traceability.

My services are ready to discuss this matter further with you as needed.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Luc DEMARTY

