



current and upcoming FTA negotiations in regard to market access liberalization (duties and rules of origin) for tobacco products

Meeting date and place

Meeting held on 23/05/2019 10:00 in Charlemagne

Participating organisation(s) & representative(s)

[redacted] -- JT International (TRN: 71175716023-03) Participant, Requester,
 [redacted] [redacted] - JT International (TRN: 71175716023-03) Participant,

Main issues discussed

Meeting TRADE & GROW with JTI (Japan Tobacco International), 23 May 2019, 10.00-11.00

JTI: [redacted], [redacted], JTI EU Affairs Office, Strombeek-Bever, Belgium; [redacted] JTI, Geneva, Switzerland;

DG GROW: [redacted], GROW D.3; DG TRADE: [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted],
 TRADE F.3; [redacted] (TRADE D.3).

- The meeting was strictly limited to discussing trade-related issues concerning the EU tobacco sector; the feedback received from JTI is relevant, necessary and valuable for pursuing EU trade policy objectives.
- JTI stressed its strong support for an ambitious EU trade agenda. The company outlined its key interests regarding the treatment of tobacco products in ongoing EU FTA negotiations with respect to tariff liberalization and rules of origin; in this context, JTI was particularly interested in EU FTA negotiations with the Mercosur bloc, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and Chile. In addition, JTI asked about prospects for relaunching currently suspended (Malaysia, Thailand, India) or very slow-moving (the Philippines) EU FTA negotiations and also showed interest in the process of implementing EU FTAs which have already been concluded (Singapore, Mexico, Vietnam) or entered into force (Japan, Colombia-Peru-Ecuador). COM took note of JTI's views.
- Moreover, JTI presented its position concerning ongoing EU investment negotiations, notably with China: While JTI is not against the EU's proposed Investment Court System (ICS), the company strongly opposes the exclusion of the tobacco sector from the scope of investment protection agreements which the EU concludes with third countries.
- JTI enquired about the state of play of revising the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention on Rules of Origin which is relevant for tobacco products.
- Finally, JTI expressed interest in the ongoing WTO accession of Belarus (where a state monopoly for tobacco imports still exists) and voiced concerns about the severe WTO Appellate Body crisis as well as the inclusion of some tobacco products (under HS 2401) in the EU's recently published "preliminary list" of U.S. goods that will be targeted for retaliatory tariffs over subsidies to *Boeing* (WTO dispute settlement case DS353).

Directorate or unit

TRADE D/3

Internal participants

[redacted]	TRADE D/3	[redacted]	Participant,
[redacted]	TRADE D/3	[redacted]	Participant, Notetaker,
[redacted]	GROW D3	[redacted]	Participant,
[redacted]	TRADE E/2	[redacted]	Participant,
[redacted]	TRADE F/3/001	[redacted]	Participant,
[redacted]	TRADE F/3/001	[redacted]	Participant,
[redacted]	TRADE F/3/001	[redacted]	Participant,
[redacted]	TRADE G/3	[redacted]	Participant,

Author(s) of minutes

[redacted]

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