Excise Contact Group of 26/11/2018
1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. PLANNING OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF RELEVANCE TO TRADERS
4.
5.

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6. Tobacco - Ongoing Tobacco study

**COM** gave a brief update on the ongoing evaluation of the Tobacco Tax Directive (available on CIRCABC).

**COM** clarified to a Trade Federation Delegation\(^1\) that the report by the Economisti Associati will not be published as it will be analysed internally by the Commission. A Member State Delegation\(^2\) inquired whether the Commission is planning to present the results of the report to the Council by the end of 2019 or more, likely in 2020. **COM** stated that currently a schedule cannot be projected because while the Commission may prepare an evaluation by mid-2019, the existing Commission will be dissolved and the new one will be appointed at the end of the year. A Trade Federation Delegation\(^3\) inquired about the possibility of having an evaluation within the Commission, without the report, by mid-2019. **COM** informed that this will be discussed internally and an update will be provided when it is clearer what the current Commission is allowed to publish. **COM** informed a Trade Federation Delegation\(^4\) that the agenda point on the impact of ECJ C-638/15 on raw tobacco on EMCS was removed, as it is currently deemed that the discussions are too immature. **COM** added that, there was a ruling from the European Court of Justice on certain specific categories of raw tobacco and the application of this ruling was formulated in a very restrictive manner. Despite the initial plan to amend EMCS for these specific categories of raw tobacco, the discussions that took place during the last ITEG meeting, resulted in postponing any further actions.

7. AOB