

Cc:

Subject:

Attachments:

Together with [Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE)], we received the visits

- on 21st March of representatives of British American Tobacco Art 4.1(b)
- on 22nd March of a representative of Telekom Asutrai Art 4.1(b)

who came to share their concerns with the functioning in Belarus of the tobacco [Out of Scope] and asked COM to raise those concerns in the WTO accession process and/or in the bilateral trade dialogue EU-Belarus.

Those concerns are summarised in the attached documents handed by our visitors.

We took note and informed about ongoing developments in the WTO accession process [redacted]; difference of views between Belarus and WTO members as regards the applicability of GATT Art. XVII to Belarus' State owned enterprises importing alcohol and tobacco products reflected in draft Working party Report and in questions submitted by WTO members) and about the possibilities offered by this process (and the bilateral dialogue) to lever Belarus in bringing its legislation, regulation and practice in conformity with WTO rules and commitments before the date of accession

We look forward to receive the analysis of B1, F2 and G3 on the issues raised by the two companies. This will be very helpful to prepare our comments and questions to Belarus on the next version of the draft Working Party Report