

From: [REDACTED] (NEAR)
Sent: mardi 27 novembre 2018 09:18
To: CHARALAMBOUS Kyriacos (CAB-HAHN)
Cc: RUIZ CALAVERA Genoveva (NEAR); [REDACTED] (NEAR); [REDACTED] (NEAR); [REDACTED] (NEAR); NEAR D3
Subject: phone call with BAT 16/11 readout
Attachments: RE: Meeting request on Kosovo (15,5 KB)

Personal
data

Dear Kyriacos,

You met with representatives of BAT on 1 October during which you referred them to me.

As a direct follow-up to your meeting of 1 October 2018, BAT contacted me asking for a meeting to discuss their concerns about proposed excise legislation in Kosovo.

After a number of requests, I agreed to have a short phone discussion with representatives of British American Tobacco (BAT), [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] which took place on 16 November. I only now had a chance to do a write-up as I have been busy dealing with the Kosovo trade crisis and developments in Skopje.

BAT referred to earlier contacts and their concerns that the draft proposals were not in compliance with the Kosovo's commitments to the EU. They had also raised their concerns directly with the Kosovan authorities, especially with respect to the passage of the draft law in the Assembly.

I explained that this is one of many legislative initiatives in Kosovo which the Commission is following closely and explained that it is not unusual, in the early years of implementation of SAAs, to experience issues with compliance. When these arise, the Commission expresses concern, as it has done in this instance, even if countries do not always follow the advice immediately. In response to a question from BAT about the penalties which could be applied under the SAA, I explained that there is an institutional framework in which SAA-related issues can be raised, as has already and will continue to be done, in this case.

[REDACTED]