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To: Art.4.1.b (TRADE); Art.4.1.b (TRADE); Art.4.1.b (TRADE); Art.4.1.b (EEAS-NEW DELHI); Art.4.1.b (EEAS-NEW DELHI); Art.4.1.b (EEAS-NEW DELHI); Art.4.1.b Spilios (TRADE); Art.4.1.b (TRADE); Art.4.1.b (TRADE)
Cc: Art.4.1.b (TRADE); Art.4.1.b (TRADE)
Subject: Meeting with FoodDrinkEurope Trade Group on EU-India bilateral negotiations - 12 July 2022
Attachments: Trade 12-07 participants list.xlsx

Today Art.4.1.b and myself had an exchange, upon their request, to update FoodDrinkEurope on the EU-India negotiations and other negotiations in the region. The meeting had initially been set up for June (but we had had to postpone due to urgencies on NZ). Participants list attached.

Art.4.1.b provided an update on outcome and atmospherics of the first round. Main questions and points raised:

- FoodDrinkEurope stressed the importance of quality over speed; the AUS-India negotiation should clearly not be a model.
- Did India already express its key demands?
- TBT issues / Trade irritants to be discussed in parallel?
- Link with TTC?
- Has progress of negotiations been linked to the solution on long-standing NTBs (like was the case in the Japan FTA negotiations)?
- N1 priority for SpiritsEurope: substantial reduction of tariffs (going up to 150%)
- Sugar: India has subsidy mechanism for sugar (minimum prices for sugar cane, support for mills, export subsidies (which influence world prices downwards)). WTO panel ruled the subsidy scheme as WTO incompatible but India is rejecting. So CEFS asks to exclude sugar liberalisation until India adjusts.
- Position of the Indian business community – how much are they pushing the Government?

We informed about the upcoming CSD meeting tomorrow and work on the SIA. SpiritsEurope offered to hold a dedicated session in autumn to provide an overview to the negotiators on the spirits industry in India.

The meeting ended with a short overview of the state of play on Australia.