

To: [REDACTED] (TAXUD); TAXUD UNIT C2
Cc: [REDACTED] (TAXUD); [REDACTED] (TAXUD); [REDACTED]
 (TAXUD); [REDACTED] (TAXUD)
Subject: Flash report of visit to TabakNatie,

Visit to TabakNatie, Port of Antwerp, October 22, 2019

Context of the visit:

Following the meeting of the Fiscalis workshop on raw tobacco in Budapest in June 2019, the Belgian Customs and Excise Administration invited Taxud C2 - together with some colleagues from the Luxembourg Customs and Excise Administration - to visit the company "Tabaknatie", handling raw tobacco in the Port of Antwerp.

The visit took place on Tuesday 22 October 2019, from 10 AM to 3PM.

We were received by the management of the company and had a tour of the warehouse facilities.

Participants from DG Taxud: [REDACTED]

Main points of interest:

- TabakNatie is responsible for the trade and handling of tobacco in the Port of Antwerp (mainly import and export of raw tobacco, but also some manufactured products and non-tobacco materials such as cigarettes factory machines, filters, cigarettes papers).
- Tabaknatie is operated out of 7 company-owned warehousing sites in the port with a cumulative surface area of more than a million m² - 11% of the total warehousing capacity in the Port of Antwerp. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
- Services provided by TabakNatie to its clients are: warehousing, customs declarations, forwarding, transport (with notably a transport site in the port of Gdynia), customised services. At the moment it handles tobacco, and depending on future market developments it could diversify in new activities.
- TabakNatie has developed its own track&trace system. It has invested in supply chain security and has received an AEO license in 2009. As Authorised Economic Operator, it works in close cooperation with customs authorities.
- The main added value of TabakNatie lies with its capacities to stock and handle raw tobacco in a safe environment and constant temperature. Raw tobacco is usually moved within a period of 6 months to either another logistic warehouse or a manufacturing site within or outside the EU. Some raw tobacco is imported for re-export. TabakNatie does not undertake any further manufacturing processes on the raw material.

- All stocks can be tracked and inspected for quality control measurements by clients.
- TabakNatie has developed itself as the main hub in Europe to handle and move raw tobacco (with around 23% of total raw tobacco worldwide –excluding China). Its main competitors are located in Asia.
- Despite the decreasing trend in tobacco consumption in the EU, TabakNatie sees further potential to develop by attracting even more flows from and to most destinations worldwide.