

Dominik Schnichels
Director, Directorate A
Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union
European Commission
Rue Joseph II 79
1000 Brussels

Brussels, 23 September 2020

Dear Mr Schnichels,

Initiated in 2002, the plenary meeting of the Trade Contact Group (TCG) organized by DG TAXUD proved to be a very effective forum for a mutual exchange of views between economic operators and the Commission's services on all customs-related issues.

The TCG plenary provides DG TAXUD with the opportunity to inform trade representatives of new legislative initiatives, trade agreements, trade policy and other policy developments or activities arising from other Commission services that are of relevance to EU external trade, commerce and movement of goods within and beyond the Customs Union.

The trade representatives – duly registered in the Transparency Register – are experienced subject matter experts that represent a wide range of economic operators. They provide relevant feedback to the proposals and publications of the Commission and as such, they fully contribute to a better quality of regulations.

We are currently facing challenging circumstances and are preparing for major changes to the customs landscape that will have a significant impact to the supply chain. That is why the undersigned trade associations would like you to request that you organize at your earliest convenience a TCG plenary meeting, which would review – amongst others – the following topics:

- The new EU-UK relationship and contingency planning
- VAT reform
- ICS 2 phase 1, phase 2 and ICS3
- POUS
- Union Customs Code – mid-term evaluation
- Customs Union Action Plan
- EU Green Deal and the carbon border adjustment mechanism
- UCC Work Program
- COVID-19 economic recovery

We believe that a plenary meeting can provide us with relevant information and assist trade to prepare for the upcoming changes. We do realize that the current situation does not allow for physical meetings to be held and we stand ready to attend the first TCG virtual plenary.

Regarding the various challenges associated with Brexit and the new EU-UK relationship, we would like to underscore the need for urgent clarification on a variety of issues that are being raised by traders. In addition,

we would also like to raise the need for additional clarity as soon as possible on EU contingency measures in the event of no agreement being reached, including advanced consultation with trade.

To that end, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you our specific concerns as soon as possible to ensure readiness on 1 January 2021. We appreciate the tremendous pressures that are faced by your services and remain committed to working with you. We look forward to your answer and remain available should you require additional information.

On behalf of our entire memberships, we wish you and your colleagues good health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter Van der Meiren', enclosed within a large, thin, hand-drawn oval.

Walter Van der Meiren,
Chair of the Customs and Trade Facilitation Committee
AmCham EU