

## **Council for Trade in Goods, 30 March 2012**

### **UKRAINE – IMPLEMENTATION OF CUSTOMS VALUATION LEGISLATION**

#### **Draft EU Statement**

- The EU regrets to come back to the issue of customs valuation problems in Ukraine, last time raised in this Council in November 2011 jointly with Norway and supported by several Members.
- At that time, important improvements in Ukrainian Customs authorities' practices and in addressing Members' concerns was acknowledged and welcomed.
- Members also encouraged Ukraine to continue its efforts to ensure the correct application of the WTO agreement on customs valuation and stated our trust that these positive trends will continue, so there would be no need to include this issue in the agenda of future meetings of the Council for Trade in Goods.
- However, according to the information the EU has received from trade operators since the last CTG meeting, the situation on the ground has recently deteriorated. Problems related to refusal by customs authorities to recognize the transaction value declared by importers and in relation to customs clearance have re-appeared. There is still some uncertainty in customs authorities' practices, and trade operators are subject to arbitrary decisions.
- We therefore like to express our continuous concern over this deteriorating situation. As mentioned in previous occasions, we are ready to work together with Ukraine in a constructive way to find a practical and effective solution to this problem. But we also expect to see real, concrete and lasting progress on the ground.
- This is an important issue for us, and we will be willing to maintain the focus on it until Ukraine's implementation of its customs valuation legislation is fully in compliance with the WTO law.