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

**Norwegian statement**

* **We echo the concerns expressed by EU regarding continued problems in trade with the Ukraine**
* **Despite increased demand for Norwegian seafood in the Ukrainian market, there are major challenges as regards the import of certain types of fish into the Ukraine.**
* **Over the last year and a half, Norwegian enterprises have through several enquiries to Norwegian authorities asserted that there is an over-estimation taking place on the import value of herring, mackerel and capelin upon import into the Ukraine.**
* **It may seem like the customs value used by Ukrainian customs authorities does not reflect the actual value of the fish shipments exported from Norway. Rather, it seems like the customs value upon import into the Ukraine is based on indicative prices.**
* **Recently a new case has emerged. We have information from one Norwegian company, which has established itself in Ukraine, that they have experienced substantial problems with regard to their herring import from Norway. Major and unjustified obstacles are created for the import of seafood into Ukraine.**
* **We see the issue of customs valuation as a trade barrier and we have raised the issue several times within the framework of the WTO, both in the Customs Valuation Committee and in this committee. However, this seems to be a continuing practice.**
* **From the Norwegian side, we would like close cooperation with Ukrainian authorities with an aim to ensure predictability in the trade in seafood. We hope that it is possible to look after both parties legitimate interests and at the same time secure conformity with the rights and duties that follows from the WTO agreements.**