

GAMBS Hubert (CAB-HAHN)

From: Kaisa-Maria Soro [kmsoro@kreabgavinanderson.com]
Sent: mardi 5 octobre 2010 18:44
To: GAMBS Hubert (CAB-HAHN)
Subject: Mtg request on Baltic Sea trade next week

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Dear Mr Gambs

I write to you on behalf of Mr Ulf Sundqvist, a former party leader of the Social Democrats and a long-term Minister in the Government of Finland, and an advisor to the Finnish Shipowners' Association and Swedish Match, a world leading producer of Swedish snus.

Mr Sundqvist will be coming to Brussels next week for meetings together with Mr Hans Ahlström, Assistant Managing Director of the Finnish Shipowners' Association.

We would at this occasion very much appreciate an opportunity to **meet with you**, for example on **Tuesday 12 October**.

We would like to discuss with you the current status of the issue of sales restriction of the Swedish snus in the EU internal market, as well as the impact of the sales ban on the economy and trade of the Baltic Sea area, in particular the shipping industry and the economy of the Åland islands.

As you may be aware of, the sale of Swedish snus is currently banned on the EU internal market (with the exception of Sweden), but it is still sold on the Baltic Sea ships. Finland allows private imports, which is of significant economic importance for the Baltic Sea shipping industry.

We met in June this year with Mr Zotti from your Cabinet on the regional policy aspects of this matter, and had a very fruitful discussion. We would now like to take the opportunity to brief you on the latest developments on this dossier, as DG Sanco has launched a public consultation on the revision of the EU Tobacco Products Directive 2001/37/EC, raising for the first time the option of lifting the ban on sales of snus on the internal market.

We realise that you have a busy schedule and would therefore like to stress that a brief meeting of 30 minutes would be quite sufficient.

Kind regards,

Kaisa-Maria Soro

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