



FEDERATION DES EXPORTATEURS

DE VINS ET SPIRITUEUX DE FRANCE

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DE VINS ET SPIRITUEUX DE FRANCE
95 rue de Monceau
75008 PARIS

PARIS, 1ST OF MARCH 2000

REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S GENERAL
TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2626
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S GENERAL TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS

We would first like to apologize for this late submission sent out of time.

We hope that it could be nevertheless taken into consideration as it is sent to support a previous submission from the European Confederation of Spirits Producers (CEPS) and its conclusions as follow :

- Imported spirits accounts for some 80 % of the total Australian spirits market, with a high proportion imported in bulk by Australian companies for processing bottling and distribution to the benefit of the Australian economy in terms of investment and employment. These businesses stand to benefit from tariff liberalisation.
- Revenue from the tariff on spirits is insignificant. The overwhelming majority of revenue derived from spirits is attributable to the Excise and General Sales Taxes. By contrast, the administrative burden arising from the nuisance tariff on these products is considerable for the Australian companies that import them.
- The elimination of nuisance tariffs on the spirits sector would be in line with commitments already made by Australia's principal trading partners, and would not undermine Australia's negotiating position in future tariff negotiations.

Sincerely yours,


Nicolas OZANAM