

## Request to expand ITA product coverage

Cologne, 16 September 2014



We, the Camera & Imaging Industry Associations, hereby state our strongest support for WTO negotiations aimed at expanding the product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA).



We therefore welcome and fully support the APEC's statements reproduced below and released in Qingdao, China, on 18 May 2014:

“APEC to support Multilateral Trading System”



“We (APEC) underscore the importance of ITA expansion negotiations. We welcome that key participants have committed to find creative ways to move forward so that these negotiations can move towards a commercially significant and balanced conclusion in the shortest timeframe possible.”



By promoting and increasing trade in IT products, the ITA has brought important benefits for consumers while also contributing to growth and innovation in the global economy. Despite these uncontested benefits, and despite the obligation imposed by the agreement on the parties to periodically review its product coverage in order to take into account technological developments, the ITA has not been reviewed since its conclusion in 1996.



In particular, we would like to emphasize the importance of including interchangeable lenses for digital cameras in any expansion of the product coverage of the ITA. Lenses for digital cameras are sophisticated technological products which are moreover essential for the functioning of digital cameras and must as a result be among the products covered by the ITA.



Technological developments have made such lenses essential and inseparable parts of digital cameras. Digital cameras cannot function without appropriate lenses. Moreover, modern interchangeable lenses for digital cameras do not rely on optical technology only but on sophisticated electric and digital technologies incorporated into the lenses themselves. In addition, complex interactive communication between the cameras and the lenses is necessary for the camera to control the functions performed by the “lenses” (e.g. auto focusing and image stabilization).



We therefore request that interchangeable lenses for digital cameras be included in any new product list which may result from the negotiations to expand the ITA product coverage.



1. Asociacia Dovozcov Audiovizualnej Techniky (ADAT, Slovakia), 2. Associacao Empresarial das Sectores Electrico, Electrodomestico, Fotografico e Electronico (AGEFE, Portugal), 3. Associazione Italiana Foto & Digital Imaging (AIF, Italy), 4. Asociația Producătorilor și Distribuitorilor de Echipamente de Tehnologia Informației și comunicațiilor (APDETIC, Romania), 5. Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA, Japan), 6. Elektroniikan Tuukkukauppiat ry (ETK ry, Finland), 7. Fotobranschens Leverandorforening (Denmark), 8. IT Association of Slovakia (ITAS, Slovakia), 9. Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey (PAFT, Turkey), 10. Photoindustrie-Verband e.V. (PIV, Germany), 11. Photo Marketing Association International (PMA, UK), 12. Photo Marketing Association International (PMA, USA), 13. Greek Manufacturers, Distributors & Dealers of Photo Products and Image Systems Association (SEKAF, Greece), 14. Syndicat des Entreprises de L'image de la Photo et de la Communication (SIPEC, France)

## Request to ensure that digital cameras benefit from duty-free treatment in India



Cologne, 16 September 2014



### 1. Our Basic Standpoint

We, the Camera & Imaging Industry Associations, hereby state our strongest support for WTO negotiations aimed at expanding the product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) to take sufficient account of the latest technological developments. We hope that these negotiations will facilitate the continuation of the benefits that come from the ITA's important contributions to the use of IT products by consumers as well as the ITA's support for global free trade and steady economic growth. We would however also like to emphasize that compliance with the existing ITA rules is equally important and essential.

### 2. Facts in India

Following the termination of the transitional period in 2005, digital cameras have correctly benefited from duty-free treatment in India. However, in March 2014, without disclosing any official reasons, the Government of India suddenly introduced import tariffs of 10% on digital cameras.

Various industry associations have petitioned the Government of India to remedy this situation urgently. Bilateral negotiations have also taken place in an attempt to find a solution. Despite all efforts being made, this issue remains unresolved, and, to the best of our knowledge, India is the only ITA member which currently imposes tariffs on imports of digital cameras.

### 3. Our Request

In accordance with the basic philosophy of the ITA, we strongly request the Government of India to remove with immediate effect the unjustified 10% import tariff currently applicable to digital cameras.

We would also like to emphasize that, aside from the issue hereby raised with regard to digital cameras, any unjustified and restrictive administrative measures which may compromise the application of the ITA as a whole must also be lifted.



1. Asociacia Dovozcov Audiovizualnej Techniky (ADAT, Slovakia), 2. Associação Empresarial dos Sectores Eléctrico, Electrodoméstico, Fotográfico e Electrónico (AGEFE, Portugal), 3. Associazione Italiana Foto & Digital Imaging (AIF, Italy), 4. Asociația Producătorilor și Distribuitorilor de Echipamente de Tehnologia Informației și comunicațiilor (APDETIC, Romania), 5. Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA, Japan), 6. Elektroniikan TukkuKauppiat ry (ETK ry, Finland), 7. Fotobranchens Leverandorförening (Denmark), 8. IT Association of Slovakia (ITAS, Slovakia), 9. Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey (PAFT, Turkey), 10. Photoindustrie-Verband e.V. (PIV, Germany), 11. Photo Marketing Association International (PMA, UK), 12. Photo Marketing Association International (PMA, USA), 13. Greek Manufacturers, Distributors & Dealers of Photo Products and Image Systems Association (SEKAF, Greece), 14. Syndicat des Entreprises de L'image de la Photo et de la Communication (SIPEC, France)

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