



## Request to remove the import tariff (5%) applicable to digital cameras in the United Arab Emirates



Cologne, 22 September 2010



### 1. Background

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), as a member of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), submitted its Schedule of concessions to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 31 July 2007, in which it agreed to remove import tariffs on digital still image video cameras (ex HS 852540\*) from the beginning of 2009.

Note:

\*HS 852540 applicable to “digital still image video cameras” has been replaced by HS 852580 applicable to “digital cameras” according to the 2007 HS revision made by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

### 2. Facts

According to the import declarations issued by the Customs authorities in the UAE, we have found that the import tariff (5%) has still been imposed on digital cameras since 2009. In addition, the import tariff is applied when digital cameras are imported into the UAE directly from abroad. It has also been established that digital cameras are subject to duties in the UAE when they are temporarily stored in a Free Trade Zone (e.g., Dubai), before being transported to other GCC member states, such as Oman and Bahrain, which are also bound by the commitment to grant duty-free treatment to digital cameras as members of the ITA.

In February 2010, representatives from our colleague industry association visited a UAE official (the WTO representative) and discussed this issue in detail in order to arrive at a satisfactory solution. The industry association has also been requesting a meeting with the UAE’s Dubai Customs and the Federal Customs Authority. However, such meeting has not yet taken place and as a result, digital cameras are still subject to duty.



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### 3. Our concern and request

The industry associations which represent the digital cameras business would like to request that the UAE remove the import tariff (5%) on digital cameras with immediate effect, since we believe that the current tariff treatment for these products in the UAE is clearly contrary to WTO commitments.



Finally, in view of the worldwide business environment being promoted by the ITA, we also believe that the duty-free treatment of digital cameras will certainly help consumers in the UAE to purchase more IT products, including digital cameras, and that it will furthermore contribute to steady economic growth and global free trade.



SYNDICAT DES ENTREPRISES DE L'IMAGE  
DE LA PHOTO ET DE LA COMMUNICATION



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1. Asociacia Dovozcov Audiovizualnej Techniky (ADAT, Slovakia), 2. Associazione Italiana Foto & Digital Imaging (AIF, Italy), 3. Associacao Empresarial das Sectores Electrico, Electrodomestico, Fotografico e Electronico (AGEFE, Portugal), 4. Asociatia Producatorilor si Distribuitorilor de Echipamente de Tehnologia Informatiei si comunicatiilor (APDE TIC, Romania), 5. Bulgarian Association of Information Technologies (bait, Bulgaria), 6. Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA, Japan), 7. Elektronik Branschen (Sweden), 8. Elektronikkbransjen (Norway), 9. Elektroniikan Tukkukauppiat ry (ETK ry, Finland) 10. Fotobranschens Leverandorforening (Denmark), 11. Association of the Hungarian Representatives of the Photo machineries Manufacturers (FOTOMKE, Hungary), 12. International Imaging Industry Association (i3a, USA), 13. Photo Imaging Council (pic, UK), 14. Photoindustrie-Verband e.V. (PIV, Germany), 15. photo & imaging association (PIA, Belgium / Luxemburg), 16. Photo Marketing Association International (PMA, USA), 17. Greek Manufacturers, Distributors & Dealers of Photo Products and Image Systems Association (SEKAF, Greece), 18. Syndicat des Enterprises de L'image de la Photo et de la Communication (SIPEC, France), 19. Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey (TFSE, Turkey) , 20. ZIPSEE (Poland)

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