

Update on the status of notification 2017/245/HR

- Unit GROW/B/2 is responsible for the management of the Directive (EU) 2015/1535 (the Single Market Transparency Directive) and the TBT Notification procedure.
The Unit receives, besides contributions from the economic operators, all the documents sent by the MS through 2 databases ("TRIS" (Technical Regulations Information System) and the TBT database)
- WHAT IS the Single Market Transparency Directive?: the notification mechanism of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 imposes an obligation upon the Member States to notify to the Commission all the draft technical regulations concerning products and Information Society Services before they are adopted in national law
- WHAT HAPPENS when the MS notifies the draft technical regulation to the Commission?: The Commission opens 3 month standstill period from the date of receipt of the draft technical regulation. For this period the notifying MS shall postpone the adoption of its draft technical regulation. This is necessary in order for the Commission and the other Member States to assess the compliance of the draft technical regulation with the EU law and the principles of the free movement of goods and services
- Within the original 3 months standstill period, the Commission or MS can deliver **comments** or a **detailed opinion**; the Commission can **block** the draft because an EU harmonisation measure is presented or envisaged at EU level; no reaction is also possible.
- A detailed opinion extends the standstill up to 6 months and the blockage can extend the standstill up to 18 months
- Croatia notified under this mechanism the "Draft Rules amending the Rules on packaging and packaging waste"
- According to the notification message, the draft defines measures for reducing the consumption of plastic carrier bags. As of 31 December 2018, the provision of free lightweight plastic carrier bags at points of sale of goods or products shall be prohibited. It also contains provisions concerning the marking of packaging, the heavy metal content in the packaging and provisions relating to the submission of required data to the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund when placing a new packaged product on the market in the Republic of Croatia for the first time
- Notified on 12/6/17
Standstill: 13/9/17
Comments issued by the Commission (12/9), Poland (5/9), France (13/9), Italy (13/9), UK (19/9), stakeholders' contributions uploaded on the TRIS database (5 non-confidential: Foodrink Europe on 12/9, European-The European organisation for packaging and the

environment on 29/8, the Scotch Whisky Association on 21/8, Spirits Europe on 4/8, Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins on 28/7, Reloop platform on 13/9)

- Stakeholders can upload their comments, while the standstill period is still ongoing, on the TRIS database. Their comments are immediately dispatched to the concerned Commission services and they receive immediately an acknowledgement of receipt. If they want to keep their comments confidential they can tick a specific box. We encourage stakeholders to submit written comments, preferably at least one month before the end of the standstill period