

TRACIT Addresses WTO Public Forum

Global trade system must tackle illicit trade as a matter of urgency

Geneva, 29 September 2021 - Stefano Betti, Deputy Director General of TRACIT, spoke at a panel organized by the World Spirit Alliance on “Looking at WTO agreements and beyond to support business recovery: can WTO help to tackle illicit trade?”

The panel was part of the WTO Public Forum, the Organization’s largest annual outreach event providing a platform for participants to discuss developments in world trade and to propose ways of enhancing the multilateral trading system.

During his intervention, Mr. Betti argued that, in order to remain free, the global trade system needs to find ways to address illicit trade as a matter of urgency.

“It is important to recognize that WTO member states are also parties to an array of multilateral and regional treaties committing them to cooperate with each other against illicit trade”, said Mr. Betti. “Countries cannot be asked to wage war against illicit trade under some legal frameworks and to lay down arms under another one”.

The other panel members were Darya Galperina, Head of International Trade, Pernod Ricard, His Excellency Santiago Wills, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the WTO, and Daniel Crosby, Partner, King & Spalding. The panel was moderated by Emily Rees, Founder and Manager, Trade Strategy.

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) is an independent, private sector initiative to drive change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

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