



Ref. CP.CE-036-2020

Mr. Agus Suparmanto  
Minister of Trade, Republic of Indonesia  
J1.M.I.Ridwan Rais No.5  
Jakarta Pusat 10110  
Indonesia

VIA EMAIL

Brussels, 25 March 2020

Dear Minister Agus,

spiritsEUROPE is the representative body of the European spirits sector. Its members comprise 31 national associations and 10 global spirits companies. We are proud to represent leading producers and exporters of spirits worldwide. European spirits are as diverse as the EU itself, spanning 47 product categories and including a host of geographically-specific products that contribute to the culture of their regions (240 GIs).

Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins, CEEV, represents the European Union wine companies in the industry and trade (still wines, aromatised wines, sparkling wines, liqueur wines and other wine products). It brings together 23 national organisations from 12 EU Member States, plus Switzerland and Ukraine, as well as consortium of 4 leading European wine companies.

European wines and spirits companies aim to maintain their business operations in Indonesia and to continue supporting Indonesia's economic development agenda, through offering European high-quality wine and spirits to consumers and the growing number of tourists visiting Indonesia annually. This is of particular importance in such challenging economic times where support to maintaining global trade flows is a priority.

We would like to express our gratitude for the Indonesian government's support towards our members' business activities over the years. The European wines and spirits companies have a longstanding tradition of doing business in Indonesia. Thanks to your support, some of them were able to contribute to Indonesian economy and job creation also through investments into local production.

We are writing to you to express our support to European companies and their importers in Indonesia who are currently applying for annual permits to import European wines and spirits under Ministry of Trade's Regulation 20/M-DAG/PER/4/2014 on Control and Oversight of Alcoholic Beverages Procurement, Distribution and Sales (as revised by the Ministry of Trade's Regulation No 25/2019). We understand that your Ministry is currently working on Import Plan 2020 for the importation of wines and spirits. **As this Regulation allows the importation of legal wines and spirits regardless of their**

**origin, we urge you to approve qualified applications and to allow European wines and spirits to compete once again alongside wines and spirits from other countries.**

We are concerned that without their import permits European companies would not be able to compete in the Indonesian market for the second year in row and would be forced to prioritise investment in other markets in the region.


The swift resolution of the issue would also give us ammunition to support ongoing negotiations between EU and Indonesia of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and to urge the European Commission, Member States and the European Parliament to progress towards the conclusion of an ambitious deal.

Thank you for consideration of our request and we would be pleased to answer any questions in regards to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Ulrich Adam  
Director General  
spiritsEUROPE



Ignacio Sanchez Recarte  
Secretary General  
Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins