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Od: Leo Baumann [Leo.Baumann@eicta.org]
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Do: Trade Policy Group
Temat: IMPORTANT: TPG VOTE on LCD duty suspension criterion for screens larger than 19" inch (top-up solution)
Ważność: Wysoka
Załączniki: LCD monitor top up solution criteria letter.doc; Meko Market Data 060906.pdf

Dear all,

The attached letter has been drafted by the LCD monitor Issue Group to fulfill a request by the European Commission. The Commission intends to propose a quota for duty-free importation of LCD screens larger than 19" inch under condition they fulfill a set of criteria that ensure their use as professional equipment and not as consumer electronic products. The Commission has asked EICTA to develop a draft list of criteria for it to consider. (This is on top of the prolongation of the duty suspension for screens up to 19" inch screen size diameter.)

Since the LCD monitor IG adopted this draft by majority under sustained opposition by one issue group member, we have to proceed to a vote at TPG level to see whether the letter gets adopted and if it does, by what majority it gets adopted. This is to determine, whether the minority has a right to have its opposition reflected in a footnote to the letter.

Specifically, EICTA proposes in the letter that the following 3 technical criteria are to be fulfilled to ensure duty-free import:

Colour monitors of the LCD type

- C1) with a diagonal measurement of the screen not exceeding 76.2 cm (30 inch), and
- C2) with a pixel pitch of less than, or equal to 0.3 mm, and if the screen is larger than 22 inch, a pixel resolution of more than 2.08 mega pixels, and
- C3) with an aspect ratio of 4:3, 5:4 or 16:10, and not 16:9.

The reason why the opposing member does not approve this letter is that according to it, several other criteria are necessary to make a clear and safe distinction between LCD monitors for professional use and others (under discussion was in addition: C4) not capable of being controlled by a remote control or have a program up or down button, C5) with a limited audio circuit (max. 2 speakers, only with mute and volume control); C6) not incorporating a tuner or scalar; C7) not fitted with a slot for a slot-in video card; C8) not capable of directly (i.e. without assistance of an ADP machine) displaying standard television or video signals, (e.g. HDTV, NTSC, SECAM, PAL etc. with connectors like HDMI, SCART, S-video etc.); C9) not capable of displaying encrypted television or video signals (e.g. HDCP with HDMI).

All other members of the IG do not believe that further criteria are necessary and that the proposed additional criteria would be overly restrictive of what can be imported duty-free as it would unduly exclude a number of screens and would make it overly complex and unworkable for custom officials. The majority of IG members have commissioned the collection of market data to support their position (attached). It is intended to be attached to the letter.

May I therefore ask you to clearly state whether you support this letter, whether you abstain or whether you are opposed to it. In the latter case, you are requested to send a formal communication to the EICTA Director General, Mark MacGann and the EICTA TPG chair, Craig Burchell, stating the reasons for your objection, which according to your view justify

your opposition, because your own highly important interest is threatened (Section 2.1 of the EICTA By-Laws).

Please send your yes/support or no/oppose or abstention vote till September 15 COB.

Many thanks.
Leo

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