



**Council for Trade in Goods
Working Party on State Trading Enterprises**

WTO RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING PARTY ON STATE TRADING ENTERPRISES**

The following report is being submitted by the Chairperson of the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises (Working Party), Mr Agustín NAVARRO DE VICENTE-GELLA, at the request of the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG)¹, and was prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat.

1 INFORMATION FOR THE CTG REPORT ON COVID-19-RELATED ACTIONS

1.1 Work of the Working Party

As a result of the pandemic-related lockdown, the Working Party meeting scheduled for 24 April 2020 was cancelled. The Chairperson proposed to hold the following meeting of the Working Party on 2 November 2020, the date already scheduled for the autumn meeting of the Working Party, and the proposal was met with no objections.² Since then, Working Party meetings have taken place in hybrid mode.

1.2 Transparency

No notifications specific to COVID-19 were required or made.

1.3 Dedicated COVID-19-related activities or discussions in the Working Party

The Working Party did not undertake activities dedicated to COVID-19.

On its own initiative, the Secretariat supporting the Working Party examined existing notifications of state trading enterprises to assess whether they affected products of importance to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. One STE had had privileges relating to the importation of ethanol with more than 80% alcohol content by volume, but those privileges had ended on 31 December 2018. Other notifications did not appear to affect products of importance to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was therefore no follow-up.

¹ JOB/CTG/18.

² RD/STR/34, para. 3 and fn 1.