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Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate F - WTO, Legal Affairs and Trade in Goods
Tariff and Non-Tariff Negotiations, Rules of Origin

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Trade Policy Committee	
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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Entry into force of legislation of the United Arab Emirates for the certification and labelling of halal products

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OBJECTIVE: *For information and discussion*

REMARKS: The Commission would like to:

- inform the Committee of the entry into force in 2016 of legislation regarding certification and labelling of halal products in the United Arab Emirates and;
- invite Member States to disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) adopted in 2014 Cabinet Decree No 10 of 2014 '*UAE Regulations for Control on Halal Products*' (see enclosed). This measure is already in force but not yet fully implemented.

The scope of the measure would include food and beverages, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and potentially also services such as hospitality and healthcare. ESMA (Emirates Standardization and Metrology Authority¹) will be in charge of the implementation of the measure. In accordance with the measure, products claiming to comply with halal requirements in the UAE shall be certified by a body accredited by ESMA and shall bear the 'Halal National Mark'.

In accordance with the information received from ESMA (Emirates Standardization and Metrology Authority), the milestones for implementation of the Decree are the following:

- By 1st March 2016 all certification bodies wishing to have the capacity to issue halal certifications in accordance with the measure, including EU certification bodies, shall be registered with ESMA
- By 1st January 2017 all certification bodies shall be accredited in accordance with the certification scheme of ESMA.
- By 1st January 2017 non-compliant certificates will not be recognised any more by UAE authorities

The Commission invites Member States to disseminate this information to manufacturers and exporters of halal products, as well as to certification bodies and other relevant stakeholders. It is important to make sure that all exporters become aware of the requirement as otherwise EU products with non-compliant certificates risk being excluded from the UAE market starting from 1st of January 2017.

More detailed information on the procedures can be found on the attachments.

Enclosed: *Cabinet Decree No. (10) for 2014 on UAE Regulations for Control on Halal Products (translated)*

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¹ <http://www.esma.gov.ae/en-us/Pages/index.aspx>