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## Indian duty on whisky scotched

Indian consumers can look forward to a greater choice of Scotch Whisky brands following the announcement by the Government of India that it will abolish the discriminatory Additional Duty levied on Scotch Whisky and other imported spirit drinks.

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA), which has long campaigned for fair market access for Scotch Whisky to India, warmly welcomed the decision that will allow imported and domestic spirit drinks to compete on equal terms in market for the first time. The current overall tariff and tax burden on Scotch Whisky can be as high as 550%.

Welcoming the announcement, Gavin Hewitt, the SWA Chief Executive, said:

“Abolition of the discriminatory Additional Duty is a significant step towards fair competition in an important emerging market for Scotch Whisky. The SWA has long campaigned for reform as the duty has unfairly restricted market access in contravention of WTO rules.

“Reform will not transform the Scotch Whisky market in India overnight - a Basic Customs Duty of 150% will continue to apply - but it opens up new possibilities for Scottish distillers to compete with domestic producers on a level playing field for the first time. This is also good news for Indian consumers, who can look forward to a greater choice of internationally renowned Scotch Whisky brands.”

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1. For further information, please contact David Williamson at the SWA on 0131 222 9230 or 07730 496 151.