***SPIRITSEUROPE TO APPEAL SCOTTISH COURT DECISION ON MINIMUM UNIT PRICING***

***TO UK SUPREME COURT***

Brussels, 18 November 2016 - ***Statement of Mr Paul Skehan, Director General of spiritsEUROPE\* on the decision to appeal the Scottish Court decision on Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) to UK Supreme Court.***

“With our co-plaintiffs the Scotch Whisky Association and Comité Vins, we have decided to appeal the ruling on minimum unit pricing of alcohol from the Scottish Court of Session to the UK Supreme Court.

Believing, as we do, that the evidence behind this measure is weak at best, that it is unlikely to have any significant impact on alcohol-related harm, and that the measure is probably illegal under EU law, we are left with no appropriate response other than to appeal to the UK Supreme Court.

We are confident of the ultimate outcome.

In the meantime, we will continue with the many campaigns and initiatives we run or finance towards responsible drinking, and against drink drive, underage and binge drinking.

We acknowledge and share the Scottish Government’s concerns about these harms caused by excessive drinking, but we do not believe MUP – a theoretical computer-based model, whose predicted outcomes have changed many times - to be an appropriate response.”

- ENDS -

\*in his capacity as permanent representative of Skehan sprl

**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

* spiritsEUROPE is the representative body for the spirits industry at European level comprising 31 associations and 8 multinationals: [www.spirits.eu](http://www.spirits.eu).
* Overview and examples of initiatives taken at national level to address alcohol related harm (quotes and impact results are included): click [here.](http://spirits.eu/files/24/cp.as-057-2016-looking-back-to-better-look-forward-brochure.pdf)
* Curbing underage drinking and harmful drinking patterns amongst children and adolescents is a priority for all stakeholders, including governments, public health specialists and the industry. The two source of data on underage drinking are showing positive trends but more needs to be done
* [ESPAD survey](http://www.espad.org/): latest publication 2016 - summary of key finding [here](http://spirits.eu/files/98/cp.as-232-2016-espad-report-2015.pdf)
* [HBSC survey](http://www.hbsc.org/): latest publication in 2016 - summary of key findings [here](http://spirits.eu/files/98/cp.as-095-2016-hbsc-survey-2016-key-messages-final.pdf)