



European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Paris, July 3, 2018

Dear Sir,

On behalf of all European tobacco growers, UNITAB is glad to invite you to its 36th Congress to be held from 15 to 17 October 2018, in Brussels (Hotel Crowne Plaza), on the theme "Hold its place in a challenging World".

While EU agriculture, in the midst of a global crisis, looks forward to restore a minimum of stability, tobacco growing sector has to raise awareness about its social and economic reality. This crop had proved successfully regarding employment, rural development and countryside's diversity. It provides a real opportunity to maintain the most vulnerable small and medium-size farms.

Yet, European tobacco growing sector has to challenge itself in an evolving and rather unfriendly environment. European tobacco growers will have to:

- Resist to increasingly hardline regulations (FCTC, TPD, taxes...) and measures of "demand limitation" gradually moving to "supply limitation" measures. The WHO clearly targets the agricultural sector.
- Challenge themselves to restore profitability, to retain the interest of manufactures through the young European Interbranch and to enter innovative markets by seizing the opportunities of "new products".
- Engage in the CAP reform by promoting a diversified and human sized agriculture, more protective of numerous climatic and market crisis, and which will restore perspectives and pride for the European farmers.

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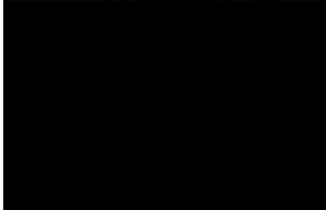
Debates planned during two days, in presence of 300 tobacco growers from all around Europe, many guests from the whole Industry, MEPs and representatives of the EU public institutions, will be the occasion for an in-depth discussion on those issues.

Knowing your interest on this matter, it would be a great honor for us to welcome you to this extremely important European tobacco growing sector meeting in Brussels.

We look forward to receiving your response and send you our best regards.


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President



François VEDEL

Delegate Secretary



Attached: Program

Reply form