



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Director-General

Brussels,  
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**NOTE FOR THE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Subject: Meetings with tobacco industry**

The recent public consultation on the Tobacco Products Directive has generated a huge interest and response and has notably led to numerous correspondence, mails and requests for contact and meetings by either tobacco industry directly or sectors which are closely linked to it, like retailer organisations, grower associations, advertisers etc.

In order to ensure a consistent SANCO approach to such activities, I would like to recall some of the principles for interactions with tobacco industry which are recommended and agreed in the context of international tobacco control.

For memory, the EU is full Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and has a legal obligation to apply its provisions.

According to Article 5(3) of the FCTC, the Parties shall act to protect their public health policy from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry.

Guidelines have been adopted for the implementation of Article 5(3).

The guidelines set out recommendations for how to address tobacco industry interference with tobacco control policies. They stipulate that interactions with the tobacco industry should occur only when and to the extent strictly necessary to enable effective regulation of the tobacco industry and tobacco products.

In any case, such interactions should be conducted transparently and whenever possible, in public. The guidelines also indicate that any interactions with the tobacco industry should be carried out in such a way as to avoid any perception of partnership or cooperation.

On this basis, I would be grateful if you would in principle refrain from meetings with the tobacco industry, that you would inform Unit C.6 of any such meeting request or meeting, and that you try to ensure Unit C.6 presence at any such meeting should it be indispensable.

[REDACTED]  
Paola Testori Coggi

Cc:

