

TAB(23)04389[1]

Mr. Pierre Bascou  
Director of the Directorate E  
Rue de la Loi 130  
1000 Brussels Belgium

Brussels, 21 September 2023

**RE: DG AGRI participation to the COP 10 – WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

Dear Mr. Bascou,

Ahead of the upcoming meeting of the COP 10 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control which will be held on November 20-25, 2023 in Panama, Copa and Cogeca would like to express their concerns regarding the need for active participation of DG AGRI in the discussion.

The objective of this Convention is to provide "*a framework for tobacco control measures to be implemented by Parties ... in order to reduce both the prevalence of tobacco consumption and the exposure to tobacco smoke on a sustained basis*" The Convention proposes "*supply, demand and harm reduction strategies*", including, among others, price and tax measures to reduce demand, regulating the contents and ingredients of tobacco products, eliminating illicit trade or promoting economically viable alternatives for tobacco growers.

COP sessions are held every 2 years, where national governments and regional organizations are represented there by previously designated official delegations. The last session was COP 9, which was held online in November 2021 due to COVID context (Geneva).

The agreements adopted at the COP are of great importance as they are subsequently translated into tobacco legislation in the legal systems of the countries and regions of the Convention especially in the EU.

While the official agenda has not yet been published, based on what was discussed at COP 9, the focus of the discussions at COP 10 will be on new and emerging products, content, emissions and ingredients of tobacco and emerging products (reduction of nicotine levels) or cultivation and its environmental impact, among other issues.

The European Commission, represented by the DG SANTE, will represent and defend the common position of the European Union since it is also one of the parties to the Convention since 2003.

Given the socio-economic importance of the tobacco sector in Europe and in particular for tobacco leaf producing countries, it is essential that the common position of the European Union takes into consideration the various interests concerned and in particular the impact that COP decisions may have on the tobacco growing sector.



For this reason, Copa and Cogeca do believe it is necessary that DG AGRI is involved in the decision-making process of the EU joint position so that the considerations on the impact on the tobacco growing sector are taken into account when setting the European position.

Yours faithfully,

**Art.4.1(b) - privacy**

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CC Mr **Art.4.1(b) - privacy** AGRI E.2 – Wine, Spirits, and Horticultural Products

