



1st MEETING of the EXPERT GROUP ON TOBACCO POLICY established under Commission Decision C(2014) 3509

Summary record

**Meeting date: 13 June 2014, 10.00 – 17:00
BRUSSELS, EESC- RUE DE TRÈVES 74 -1040 BRUSSELS
MEETING TRE 7701**

This was the first meeting of the Expert Group on Tobacco Policy established under Commission Decision C(2014) 3509.

The Chair opened the meeting welcoming all participants. The Commission presented draft Rules of Procedure for the Expert Group and Member State experts provided comments. The Commission will take these comments into account and issue a revised draft for adoption by the Expert Group.

The Commission referred to the confidential nature of the deliberations of the Expert Group and the need for experts to disclose possible conflicts of interest in advance of meetings, should they exist. No conflicts of interests were reported.

The Commission briefly outlined the function of the Expert Group, explaining its advisory role in the preparation of Delegated Acts in the field of tobacco control and its role as a forum for all other exchanges on tobacco-related matters. The Expert Group is to be composed of one authority per Member State as designated member, who will nominate representatives for the meetings. The Expert Group will also establish sub-groups on more specific matters (two are currently envisaged: one on ingredients and one on illicit trade). The group might also be involved in the preparation of Implementing Acts, though it will be the Committee established under Article 25 of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) that will formally discuss and vote on these Acts.

The Commission then presented its future work programme related to the TPD, outlining the various timelines and projects planned in the areas of ingredients, packaging & labelling, illicit trade and e-cigarettes. Various studies and preparatory work in these fields are under way to ensure that the secondary legislation (Implementing and Delegated Acts) provided for in the TPD is adopted in a timely manner, to allow all provisions to be fully implemented.

In response to questions, the Commission explained that this work programme remains a work in progress and that input from members of the Expert Group is welcome. In any case, the preparation of secondary legislation has been prioritised in the work programme.

Next, the Commission presented the draft Delegated Act under preparation to establish the library of picture warnings under the new TPD. The presentation featured the pictures selected (three sets of fourteen pictures, to be rotated once in use) to appear in the draft Act. The pictures were developed to complement the text warning messages in Annex I of the TPD. They were prepared by a contractor following advice received from international experts in the development of pictorial health warnings for tobacco packages. Furthermore independent medical specialists had been consulted to verify medical authenticity and accuracy. Pictures that did not meet the legal or medical standards were discarded. The final selection was made based on the criteria of effectiveness following an extensive study conducted in various Member States. In a very limited number of cases a modification was foreseen in order to ensure a variety of concepts, always under the condition that the replacement picture scored well in terms of effectiveness. The experts provided feedback and the approach taken in the development of the pictures was discussed. The experts thanked the Commission for the work carried out.

The Commission explained that it will propose to align the transposition deadline of the new text warnings (Directive 2014/39/EU, which amended Directive 2012/9/EU) with the deadline for picture warnings (Directive 2014/40/EU) in order to make both provisions simultaneously operational. The experts welcomed this approach.

Regarding the rotation procedure for the picture warnings it was suggested that the same set of picture warnings should be used by all Member States simultaneously. The risk that industry might try to circumvent the rotation rules was highlighted by one expert.

The Commission thanked participants and indicated that the first meetings of the two sub-groups are likely to take place in autumn.

Annex I – List of Participants

Belgium	(FPS Public Health)
Bulgaria	(Permanent Representation to the EU)
Cyprus	(Permanent Representation to the EU)
Czech Republic	(Ministry of Agriculture) (Ministry of Health)
Croatia	(Ministry of Health)
Denmark	(Ministry of Health)
Estonia	(Ministry of Social Affairs) (Estonian State Medicines Agency)
Finland	(Ministry of Social Affairs and Health) (Permanent Representation to the EU)
France	(Ministry of Health – Direction Générale de la santé)
Germany	(BMEL)
Greece	(Ministry of Health) (Permanent Representation to the EU)
Hungary	(National Institute for Health Development)
Italy	(Ministry of Health) (Permanent Representation to the EU)
Latvia	(Ministry of Health)
Lithuania	(Ministry of Health)
Luxembourg	(Ministry of Health)
Poland	(Ministry of Health)
Portugal	(General Directorate of Health)
Romania	(Ministry of Health)
Slovakia	(Public Health Authority)
Slovenia	(Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia)
Sweden	(Ministry of Health and Social Affairs) (Permanent Representation to the EU)
The Netherlands	(Permanent Representation to the EU)
United Kingdom	(Department of Health)

Observers

Iceland	(Ministry of Welfare)
Norway	(Directorate of Health) (Mission of Norway to the EU)
Turkey	(Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Authority)
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	(Mission of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the EU)
EFTA Secretariat	

Commission services:

Mr Dominik Schnichels	DG SANCO D4 (Chair)
Mr Antti Maunu	DG SANCO D4
Ms Sigrid Wimmer	DG SANCO D4
Ms Katja Broman	DG SANCO D4

Mr Matus Ferech	DG SANCO D4
Ms Ingrida Pucinskaite-Kubik	DG SANCO D4
Ms Isabel Holmquist	DG SANCO D4
Ms Patricia Murray	DG SANCO D4
Mr Tom Lindner	DG SANCO D4
Ms Maya Philippe	DG SANCO D4
Mr Emmanouil Daskalakis	DG SANCO D4
Mr Richard McGeehan	DG SANCO D4