



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health systems and products  
Cross-border healthcare and tobacco control

## SYSTEMS OF TRACEABILITY AND SECURITY FEATURES FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS

~ COUNTRY VISIT TO GREECE~

**Date: 13/09/2018**

**Meeting venue: Hellenic Independent Authority for Public Revenue**

### – SUMMARY RECORD –

On 13 September, SANTE/B2 carried out a country visit to Greece. The agenda included two meetings in Greece, both hosted by the Hellenic Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR). A meeting in the morning took place with representatives from the Hellenic Ministry of Finance and from the IAPR.

A second meeting took place in the afternoon and was open to Hellenic industry stakeholders (manufacturers/importers, wholesalers/distributors and solution providers). The D.G. of Customs and Excise Duties of the IAPR chaired both meetings. The meetings aimed at assisting Hellenic authorities and stakeholders in the application of the secondary legislation on systems of traceability and security features for tobacco products.

#### **Meeting with Hellenic authorities**

The Hellenic authorities provided an overview of the status of national affairs regarding the implementation of systems for traceability and security features of tobacco products. SANTE/B2 further introduced participants to the general structure of the systems and provided a short feedback on ongoing and future activities.

Following this brief presentation, SANTE/B2 and the Hellenic authorities discussed the most pertinent questions related to the systems. The following topics were addressed:

derogation of Article 4(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/574, the independence criteria, the use of tax stamps as the security feature in duty free shops, access to the repositories system for Member States Authorities and testing of the overall system.

### **Meeting with industry stakeholders**

The Hellenic authorities provided a general introduction. SANTE/B2 then gave a presentation on the overall structure of systems of traceability and security features, the estimated timeline for the technical rollout, as well as the main regulatory aspects for economic operators under the new secondary legislation. In the second part of the meeting, the following discussion points were addressed: physical and electronical delivery of unique identifiers; their length; number of characters characterising the human readable code; approval/rejection of data storage contracts; expected date for the selection of the secondary repository provider; tear tape solutions and security feature; existence of any specific procedure for notification of the selected providers for anti-tampering device; cost for unit packets; transitional period and operational continuity in special conditions.

**Participants (public authorities):**

SANTE/B2, European Commission

Ministry of Finance

Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR)

**Participants (stakeholders):**

Association of the Greek Tobacco Industries

British American Tobacco Hellas S.A.

Imperial Tobacco Hellas S.A.

JT International Hellas S.A.

PAPASTRATOS-Philip Morris International S.A.

Karelias S.A.

Real Tobacco S.A.

Wolfway Tobacco LTD

Hellenic Duty Free Shops S.A.

Authentix, Inc.

Dentsu Aegis Network Ltd.