



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate D  
**D4 – Substances of Human Origin and Tobacco Control**

Brussels, 26 March 2012

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **Participants:**

**Antti Maunu, Anna-Eva Ampelas, Matus Ferech (DG SANCO D4)**

**EFFAT representative, Przemyslaw Noworyta (UNITAB), Carlo Sacchetto (FETRATAB), François Vedel (UNITAB)**

**Place: Rue Froissart 101, 03/33**

**Date: 14 September 2011**

The meeting was organised on the request of stakeholders involved in tobacco growing and focused on the ongoing review of the Tobacco Products Directive.

The grower's representatives confirmed that their main concern is related to ingredients. They claimed that a ban on ingredients would discriminate Burley and Oriental growers representing 81% of EU's 84 000 growers and corresponding part of the 400 000 people employed on the farms. An ingredients ban would to a large extent close down this whole business and these people would lose their jobs. A vast majority (95%) of them has tobacco growing as their principal source of income and many live in poor marginal rural areas making it impossible to switch to another activity (or tobacco variety).

The grower's representatives agreed that a ban on "candy cigarettes" is justified in order to prevent young people from taking up smoking. However, they claimed that sugar and some ingredients (such as cocoa, vanilla and liquorice) need to be added to Burley and Oriental tobaccos because analogous compounds present in the leaves are lost during the drying process. Ingredients needed to restore the palatability should be allowed. However, the grower's representatives were not on a position to provide more detailed information on exactly which substances are lost and how much must be added in order to restore the palatability. In this context they referred to the tobacco manufacturers. They suggested as one option to ban only "characterised" flavoured products (where a dominant taste covers the natural taste of tobacco) from the market.

The grower's representatives also argued for special treatment of cigars as they see as an "adult product" not attractive for young people. They claimed that certain flavours (incl. anise) should be allowed in cigars, mainly for traditional reasons.

They also expressed concern that a ban on ingredients would not only affect EU Burley and Oriental tobacco consumed in the EU, but also export to third countries as such a regulation could have world wide consequences for the production and blending.

In addition to their concerns on the impact on employment, they also feared that a ban on ingredients would result in illicit trade. Consumers with a preference for traditionally blended cigarettes would find these cigarettes on the black market. In this context, they referred to Canadian experiences after having introduced a ban on ingredients.

Grower's representatives also expressed their willingness to further assist DG SANCO with the impact assessment.