



Brussels, 21 November 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2011 WITH HEALTH NGOS

Participants:

Dominik Schnichels, Antti Maunu, Sigrid Wimmer, Anna-Eva Ampelas, Katja Broman, Matus Ferech (DG SANCO D4)

Cornel Radu-Loghin (ENSP), Lies van Gennip (STIVORO), Florence Berteletti (Smoke Free Partnership), Susanne Logstrup (European Heart Network), Deborah Arnott (ASH)

Place: Froissart 101, 2/17A

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views and to discuss the ongoing revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD).

- NGOs thanked DG SANCO for a good and balanced report on the results of the public consultation on the possible revision of the TPD.
- It was noted that the revision of the TPD is in the Commission Work Programme for 2012. The NGOs urged the Commission to come up with a proposal soon and to avoid further delays to ensure that the proposal can be treated by the present European Parliament. DG SANCO stressed the need to come up with a solid impact assessment.
- DG SANCO introduced options on how to address various areas of the TPD, including the scope, labelling, ingredients and access to tobacco products. The NGOs stressed the importance of mandatory and bigger picture warnings on both sides of the pack, starting at the top; replacing quantitative TNCO information by descriptive information; plain packaging; ingredients; maintaining the ban on snus.
- NGOs stressed that certain measures, such as mandatory picture warnings are not expected to produce rapid changes in smoking behaviour amongst addicted smokers, but rather to improve awareness of the health risks and to reduce smoking initiation.