



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 Health systems and products
Substances of human origin and Tobacco control

Brussels, 1 June 2015

MEETING WITH PALACIO & ASOCIADOS ON 27 MAY 2015

Participants

Palacio & Asociados	SANTE D4
Ana Palacio Maria Gonzalez Parrilla Fatima Saenz	Dominik Schnichels, head of unit Filip Borkowski, team leader

Ms Palacio follows the implementation process of the new Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) and the ratification of the FCTC Illicit Trade Protocol in collaboration with SICPA, a provider of secured identification, traceability and authentication solutions and services. Ms Palacio is also affiliated with Albright Stonebridge Group, a strategic advisory and commercial diplomacy firm.

The meeting had an informative character. First, DG SANTE summarised the main points of VP Georgieva's speech at the recent plenary session of the European Parliament (on 18 – 21 May 2015): the Commission is assessing the existing agreement with PMI, the Commission intends to make its assessment available to the public and no negotiations with PMI on the prolongation have started.

Next, DG SANTE informed that the Commission formally proposed a ratification of the FCTC Illicit Trade Protocol by the EU. DG SANTE hopes for rapid progress of the file (first discussions in Council in the coming weeks).

Finally, DG SANTE stressed that the timely implementation of the TPD is very high on the Commission's agenda. Regarding the implementation of the tracking and tracing provisions, the EU system might even set a standard for other countries and regions. Ms Palacio agreed that in this respect being a frontrunner implies a responsibility but also presents an opportunity. DG SANTE informed that the implementation follows the indicative timeline published at SANTE's website. The next step is the conclusion of the targeted stakeholder consultation and discussions with Member States.