



Brussels, 10 July 2015

3RD MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON TOBACCO POLICY

SUMMARY RECORD

Date: 2 July 2015

Place: CCAB-4C

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

The meeting focused on the implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) in the area of packaging and labelling, both regarding the Commission's work on implementing acts and the Member States' progress in transposition.

First, the Commission presented a document on editing of combined health warnings on smoked tobacco products, issued by an external contractor. It was clarified that the document is intended to assist when discussing with Member States the layout and design of combined health warnings on tobacco products for smoking. The experts welcomed the document as very useful. Some of the participants asked whether they could publish the document on their national web sites and/or translate it into their national languages. The Commission underlined that the document has not yet been finalised and that any additional comments can be sent to the external contractor as soon as possible.

Secondly, the Commission stressed that there have been some questions from national regulators and industry stakeholders as regards the placement of the general warning and information message on products other than cigarettes, roll-your own tobacco and water-pipe tobacco in the case they would have to comply with the combined health warnings regimes. It was underlined that TPD is silent on the positioning in this case, but that the Commission is currently reflecting on how to facilitate the implementation of Article 9 for 'other' products. Participants welcomed the idea for further discussion on this and it was suggested to involve an external contractor in this work.

Thirdly, the Commission gave a short presentation on behalf of the Joint Research Centre outlining the evidence in support of different types of cessation information. Participants

were asked to evaluate and monitor cessation line uptake after the new combined health warnings are put into general use and to share their experiences on this.

Fourthly, the Commission reported from the ingredients subgroup on 1 June and from the e-cigarette subgroup on 29 May. It was stressed that the discussion in the ingredients subgroup had mainly focused on the development of a reporting format for ingredients and emissions, the priority list of additives and the determination of tobacco products with characterising flavours. As for the subgroup on e-cigarettes, it was explained that the potential risks to public health of refillable electronic cigarettes, technical standards for refillables and the common notification format for e-cigarettes were discussed.

Fifthly, a discussion was held on implementation of certain provisions of the TPD. Experts also gave updates about various progresses made in tobacco control in their Member States as well as pending national court cases.

Finally, the Commission reported briefly about the state of play on the WTO plain packaging case against Australia and referred to the third party hearing that took place in the beginning of June.

Annex I

List of participants

Members of the Tobacco Products Committee:

Austria	(Federal Ministry of Health)
Belgium	(FPS Public Health)
Bulgaria	(Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EU)
Croatia	(Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU)
Cyprus	(Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU)
Czech Republic	(Ministry of Agriculture/Ministry of Health)
Denmark	(Ministry of Health)
Estonia	(Ministry of Social Affairs)
Finland	(Ministry of Social Affairs and Health)
France	(Direction Générale de la Santé)
Germany	(BMEL, Referat 223)
Greece	(Ministry of Health and Social Insurance/Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU)
Hungary	(National Institute for Health Development/Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU)
Ireland	(Department of Health)
Italy	(Ministry of Health)
Latvia	(Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the EU)
Lithuania	(Ministry of Economy of Lithuania/Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU)
Luxembourg	(Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU)
Malta	(Environmental Health Directorate Ministry for Energy and Health)
Poland	(Ministry of Health/Bureau for Chemical Substances)
Portugal	(General Directorate of Health)
Romania	(Ministry of Health)
Slovakia	(Public Health Authority)
Slovenia	(Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia)
Spain	(Ministry of Health)
Sweden	(Public Health Agency of Sweden)
The Netherlands	(Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport)
United Kingdom	(Department of Health)

Observers:

Norway	(Ministry of Health)
Iceland	(Ministry of Welfare)
Turkey	(Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Authority/Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU)
EFTA Secretariat	

Commission:

DG SANTE D4

Dominik Schnichels (chair)

Anna-Eva Ameplas

Katja Broman

Matus Ferech

Isabel Holmquist

Patricia Murray

Benedikt Reinke

Kerstin Selbach