



Brussels,
SANTE B2/

MEETING ON EMERGING TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS IN TOBACCO CONTROL POLICIES

10 February 2022

WebEX online meeting between 14:00 and 16:15

– Minutes –

The virtual meeting targeted Pan-European organizations, however, national organizations registered within the deadline and fulfilling all meeting participation criteria (detailed in the invitation by DG SANTE, including presence in the EU Transparency Register and submission of a Conflict of Interests declaration) were exceptionally allowed to attend.

DG SANTE welcomed the participants and explained the meeting rules, including the need for organizations to be registered in the EU Transparency Register, the presence of observers and details pertaining the publication of the minutes on the Commission's website. In way of clarification, DG SANTE explained that the meeting was not part of any formal consultation exercise. All organisations sent a 'Declaration of Conflict of Interests' and no organisation declared any conflict of interests. If conflict of interests are subsequently found, DG SANTE reserved the right to add them *a posteriori* to the publication of the minutes. The welcome part of the meeting was concluded with a small introduction of all attendees (including the chair, tobacco control team, organisation's participants and observers) and the presentation of the meeting agenda.

Subsequently, DG SANTE presented the context of the meeting, convened in response to several meeting requests by various organizations with interest in emerging tobacco and nicotine products. Nevertheless, any organisation within the scope of the meeting, and fulfilling the participation criteria, could attend. DG SANTE presented the meeting as an opportunity for organisations to share their views and opinions in an open and transparent manner. Following, DG SANTE gave a small overview of the tobacco control goals and objectives under the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, succeeding with a portrayal of the Report on application of the Tobacco Products Directive 2014/40/EU and the evidence and studies that supported its findings.

Pan-European organisations (albeit with different levels of geographical coverage), in general, introduced their objectives, constituencies and mandates, and presented their views and arguments concerning emerging tobacco and related products' role in tobacco control. Some organisations have been present in the field for quite some time and have regular interactions at national and European level (e.g. media interventions, participation in consultations/surveys or contribution in standards bodies). Participants emphasised that smoking prevalence remains high across the EU (as well as tobacco related cancers and heart diseases'

incidence), developed on their views regarding the need for more lenient measures for smoking alternatives and explained how they supported consumers that wish to take on smoking substitutes (e.g. vaping, heated tobacco products, nicotine pouches or snus). They also stressed the importance of involving nicotine consumers' representatives in policy-making discussions pertaining to emerging products and the need for risk-proportionate regulation. Annotatively, several organizations accentuated that they do not receive funding from tobacco industry and that individuals work on a voluntary basis. One organisation clarified that their secretariat is funded by a grant from the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (funded by annual gifts from Philip Morris International (PMI) Global Services Inc.), notwithstanding, underlining independence from that funder.

Afterwards, the national organizations presented their domestic contexts, including some data on the prevalence of smoking, the burden of smoking/combustion-related diseases, the challenges faced by smokers and the importance of tobacco smoking substitutes for the consumers they represent. Some organizations called for more restrictive regulation of combustible cigarettes (e.g. increase in taxation and increase in the number of smoke free environments), as well as for more cessation and prevention programmes. Overall, both pan-European and national organizations pointed out the need for evidence based policy-making. Besides, they called for emerging products to be separated from traditional tobacco smoking products in policy-making and for harm reduction strategies to be considered in EU policies.

In the closing remarks, DG SANTE thanked the openness and willingness of all organisations to share their views and explained that it sees this meeting as a reference point for future consultations. DG SANTE encouraged organizations to take the opportunity to formally input their views and arguments, as well as evidence they may wish to share with the Commission, through any potential upcoming formal public consultations on 'Have your say' web portal. DG SANTE also explained the importance of stakeholders' involvement in the policy-making process as part of the Better Regulation policy of the Commission, as well as the importance of comprehensive and robust evidence for the decision-making process.

ANNEX 1 – List of Participants

1. Participants representing Pan-European organisations

Organisations	Transparency ID	Participants
Association indépendante des utilisateurs de cigarette électronique (Aiduce)	036866245389-48	1 participant
European Medical Association	834080221070-18	1 participant
European Tobacco Harm Reduction Advocates (ETHRA)	354946837243-73	2 participants
International Network of Nicotine Consumer Organisations (INNCO)	657522841173-59	1 participant
International Association On Smoking Control & Harm Reduction (SCOHRE)	105924642733-12	2 participants
SOVAPE	986221244025-63	2 participants

2. Participants representing national organisations

Organisations	Transparency ID	Participants
National Association of Consumers of Personal Vaporizers (IT) - <i>Associazione Nazionale Consumatori Vaporizzatori Personali</i>	483719041379-11	1 participant
Institute for Rational Addiction Policies (CZ) - <i>Racionální politiky závislosti Think Tank</i>	111891738072-96	2 participants
Hungarian Scientific Association for Harm Reduction and Environmental Diseases (HU) - <i>Magyar Ártalomcsökkentő és Környezeti Betegségekkel foglalkozó Tudományos Egyesület</i>	613868445232-70	1 participant
New Nicotine Alliance Sweden (SE)	429802042501-19	1 participant
Platform for the Reduction of Harm due to Tobacco Consumption (ES) - <i>Plataforma para la Reducción de Daños por Tabaquismo</i>	166296541422-35	1 participant

3. Tobacco Control team (DG SANTE)

4. Observers

Organisations	Transparency ID	Observers
European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP)	17882036839-35	2 observers
Smoke Free Partnership (SFP)	6403725595-50	1 observer