



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems and products
Substances of human origin and Tobacco control

2ND MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON TOBACCO POLICY **established under Commission Decision C(2014) 3509**

Summary Record

Meeting date: 13 March 2015, 10.00 – 17.00
BRUSSELS, ALBERT BORCHETTE (CCAB), RUE FROISSART 36,
Meeting room 1C

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

The meeting focused on the new Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) and its implementation. The main purpose was to discuss and update the parties on the implementation process of the TPD, both regarding the Commission's work on implementing acts and the Member States' progress in transposition.

The Commission introduced the main developments since the last Expert Group meeting held on 13 June 2014. An ambitious indicative implementation plan, which aims at the adoption of five legal acts by the end of 2015 and two more before the transposition deadline of 20 May 2016, has been published on the SANTE website. The Commission is exploring the use of legal instruments that would facilitate national transposition. Member States welcomed this.

The Commission stressed the need for a joint effort from both the Member States and the Commission in order to succeed in the timely transposition/implementation of the TPD. The Commission also reiterated its readiness to assist the Member States in the transposition. . Member States were also encouraged, in the context of the transposition of the TPD, to look at other aspects of tobacco control, such as smoke-free environment, advertising and taxation.

The Commission gave presentations on on-going work with implementing measures, focusing on the process to date, the main elements and the next steps as regards ingredients, electronic cigarettes, packaging & labelling as well as traceability and security features. Various studies and preparatory work in these fields are under way to ensure that the secondary legislation is adopted in a timely manner. The Commission also presented, in broad terms, its preliminary reflections on what to be put into the secondary legislation to be adopted 2015/2016.

For packaging and labelling of RYO tobacco the external contractor gave a presentation where certain health warnings (information message and general warning) could be positioned on the various packaging types. The presentation also covered the design of the combined health warnings on cigarettes and RYO tobacco.

On ingredients reporting it was announced that the draft data dictionaries would be finalised soon. The main discussion point was how to ensure the creation of a consistent data set that would allow comparison of data across Member States. As regards the test panels for determining products with a characterising flavour Member States were consulted on the issues “consumer v. expert panel”, base line and “smoking v. smelling”.

For electronic cigarettes the notification format was at the centre of the discussions (see above on ingredients reporting). The Commission also informed about the recently launched study on technical specifications for the refill mechanisms and risks to public health associated with the use of refillable electronic cigarettes. Member States were informed about the standardisation work at CEN.

On illicit trade the Commission explained that the feasibility study for track and trace would soon be finalised. It was announced that the document will be shared with Member States as soon as possible. Also the opinion of the stakeholders concerned will be sought. Member States were asked to reflect on these issues and to send possible additional comments within two weeks.

The Commission proposed to the group the establishment of a new Expert Subgroup (Working group) on electronic cigarettes. The Commission explained that such a Sub-group would be useful in order to discuss issues related to Art. 20 of the TPD and its implementation/transposition. The Expert Group agreed to the establishment of the Subgroup on electronic cigarettes. The Commission plans to organise two meetings of the Subgroup in 2015 (May/June and October/November 2015)

The Commission also held a question and answer session on the TPD and its implementation, and discussed the EU's and the MSs' participation in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control working groups.

The Commission underlined that it is doing its utmost to deliver timely and appropriate legal acts and thanked the participants for a successful meeting. The next Expert group meeting is scheduled for 15 October 2015. Subgroups will meet in between.

Annex I – List of Participants

Committee members

Austria	(Federal Ministry of Health)
Belgium	(FPS Public Health)
Bulgaria	(Permanent Representation to the EU)
Cyprus	(Ministry of Health)
Czech Republic	(Ministry of Agriculture) (Ministry of Health)
Croatia	(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)
Greece	(Ministry of Health and Social Insurance)
Hungary	(National Institute for Health Development)
Ireland	(Department of Health)
Italy	(Ministry of Health)
Latvia	(Ministry of Health)
Lithuania	(Ministry of Economy)
Luxembourg	(Ministry of Health)
Malta	(Environmental Health Directorate)
The Netherlands	(Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport) (Dutch Customs)
Poland	(Ministry of Health) (Custom Service of the Republic of Poland)
Portugal	(General Directorate of Health)
Romania	(Ministry of Health)
Slovakia	(Public Health Authority)
Slovenia	(Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia)
Spain	(Dirección General Salud Pública, Calidad e Innovación)
Sweden	(Ministry of Health and Social Affairs)
United Kingdom	(Department of Health)

Observers

Norway	(Ministry of Health) (Directorate of Health) (Norway Mission to the EU)
Serbia	(Mission of Serbia to the EU)
Turkey	(Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Authority) (Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU)
EFTA	(EFTA secretariat)
Private experts	(Butcher & Gundersen) (VVA European Commission)

Commission services:

Mr Dominik Schnichels	DG SANTE D4 (Chair)
Ms Anna Eva Ampelas	DG SANTE D4
Ms Katja Broman	DG SANTE D4
Mr Matus Ferech	DG SANTE D4
Ms Ingrida Pucinskaite-Kubik	DG SANTE D4
Ms Isabel Holmquist	DG SANTE D4
Ms Patricia Murray	DG SANTE D4
Mr Filip Borkowski	DG SANTE D4
Ms Maya Philippe	DG SANTE D4
Ms Anette Laulajainen	DG SANTE D4