

LATEST NEWS ON TOBACCO CONTROL!

The tobacco industry had

110 registered lobbyists in Brussels in 2017

DECEMBER 2018



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The latest Smoke Free Partnership infographic on tobacco industry presence in the EU policy-making environment is out.

Tobacco industry interference remains the largest obstacle to the implementation of effective tobacco control policies worldwide. When tobacco industry interference results in delays or policies being blocked, this translates into real lives being put at higher risk of disease and death.

SFP has been monitoring the EU Transparency Register to identify and measure the representation of tobacco industry interests. The objective is to shed light on the human and economic resources of the tobacco industry and its allies, who are lobbying the EU institutions.

The infographic focuses on 4 key aspects of tobacco industry spending, namely: direct spending, consultancy spending, full-time staff and accreditations to the EU institutions. In 2017 the tobacco industry had 110 registered lobbyists compared to 85 in 2015. Tobacco lobbying remains big business in Brussels.



Tobacco industry presence in the EU policy-making environment

2018 update
(2017 data)



Why is this important?

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How did we conduct the search?

1. Search tobacco manufacturers
2. Search trade associations
3. Search affiliations (other EU/national trade associations, consultancies)
4. Free text search for 'tobacco' and 'cigarette' in 6 languages (EN, FR, ES, IT, DE, NL)
5. Constant cross referencing, elimination of non-relevant results and cross checking of ambiguities by desk research

Is this estimate exhaustive?

No. This is a conservative estimate of lobbying resources of the tobacco industry for three reasons:

1. Because it is based on the voluntary EU transparency Register, it only reflects what is declared in the register.
2. The limited number of languages of the search may mean that interest representatives may not have been included in the results.
3. The register also does not cover law firms, many of which might be representing tobacco industry clients.

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LATEST NEWS ON TOBACCO CONTROL!

More and more countries adopt

tobacco plain packaging legislation

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More and more countries adopt tobacco plain packaging legislation



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An international report released by the Canadian Cancer Society shows that there is tremendous international momentum for tobacco plain packaging. There are now 25 countries and territories moving forward with plain packaging, with 9 having adopted the measure and 16 working on it.

The number of countries requiring plain packaging is expected to accelerate further because of the World Trade Organization (WTO) decision on June 28, 2018 that Australia's plain packaging requirements are consistent with WTO's international trade agreements. The WTO Panel dismissed the claims that Australia's tobacco plain packaging laws unjustifiably infringe intellectual property protections and are unnecessarily trade restrictive.

The Canadian Cancer Society report – *Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report* – documents global progress on plain packaging, ranks 206 countries and territories on the size of their health warnings on cigarette packages, and lists countries and territories that require graphic picture warnings.



"There is an unstoppable worldwide trend for countries to use graphic pictures on cigarette packages to show the deadly health effects of smoking, and to require plain packaging," says Rob Cunningham, senior policy analyst, Canadian Cancer Society. "For plain packaging, Australia was the first country to implement the measure, in 2012, and now the dominoes are falling."



Guidelines under the international tobacco treaty, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), recommend that countries consider implementing plain packaging. Plain packaging includes health warnings on packages, but prohibits tobacco company branding, such as colours, logos and design elements, and requires the brand portion of each package to be the same colour, such as an unattractive brown. The brand name would still appear in a standard font size, style and location. The package format is standardized. Plain packaging puts an end to packaging being used for product promotion, increases the effectiveness of package warnings, curbs package deception, and decreases tobacco use.

Plain packaging has been implemented in Australia (2012), France (2016), the United Kingdom (2016), Norway (2017), Ireland (2017), New Zealand (2018) and Hungary (2018), will be implemented in Uruguay (2019) and Slovenia (2020), and is in process or under consideration in Canada, Belgium, Thailand, Georgia, Singapore, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Romania, Jersey, Guernsey, Taiwan, Chile, Finland, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.

TOBACCO CONTROL

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WHO FCTC COP8 concludes with new strategy to accelerate tobacco control efforts



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The Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) closed its eighth session (COP8) after adopting a Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) outlining a new action plan to scale up the global tobacco control agenda over the next few years.

According to the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA), “the most important decision taken during the week – and FCA’s top priority headed into the COP – was arguably the adoption of the first ever strategic plan for the FCTC. Titled the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control, this plan provides a roadmap to reach the overarching target to reduce tobacco prevalence use by 30% by 2025.

The Strategy will be an important tool to streamline work under the Convention, to raise funds to address the global funding gap for tobacco control, and to facilitate international cooperation and raise the visibility of the treaty.



In adopting the Strategy, the COP also agreed to set up a peer-led FCTC Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) by 2020. Common under other treaties, this mechanism involves a review of the implementation reports that Parties provide to the FCTC Secretariat every two years “.

The six-day COP8 gathering brought together over 1,200 participants comprising delegations from 148 Parties to the global tobacco control treaty and included representatives of United Nations agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society.



WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

COP8 also achieved significant progress on agreeing to implement mechanisms to increase the transparency of COP sessions and to reduce the ability of industry-influenced delegates to interfere in COP discussions.

For future COP sessions, each Party delegation will be required to declare that they have observed Article 5.3 its guidelines in selecting their delegation to the COP. IGO and NGO observers will be required to submit declarations of any conflict of interest in order to be accredited to attend the COP. COP8 also amended policies to encourage media access to COP discussions, and established screening procedures for media and public attendees to prevent tobacco industry representatives from infiltrating the COP through these badges.

There were a number of other decisions taken at COP8 on treaty instruments and technical matters, including:

- On novel tobacco products, where Parties re-affirmed that Heated Tobacco Products are indeed tobacco products and that, as such, are subject to regulation under the FCTC. COP8 also requested a report on these products for COP9.
- E-cigarettes were also discussed again at COP8, though much more calmly than at past COP sessions. The Secretariat has been encouraged to pursue the idea of an IARC monograph, but no formal decision was adopted.
- On Article 13 (tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship), a working group will draft an addendum to the Article 13 guidelines to deal with the changing media landscape and cross-border advertising. The Secretariat will also establish an online information hub to facilitate exchange between Parties on tobacco advertising activities.

The recent entry into force on 25 September of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade on Tobacco Products marked another key milestone in global tobacco control efforts. To date, the Protocol has 48 Parties. The first session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to the Protocol was held on 8-10 October, following the close of COP8.

Sources: *WHO FCTC Press release and notes of the FCA policy team.*