



Briefing: Proposals for the Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resources (TEDOR) & the Tobacco Taxation Directive (TTD) revision

The European Cancer Organisation (ECO) and the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) - together representing 34 national and regional cancer societies as well as 41 member societies – wish to draw attention the below briefing, ahead of the Economic and Finance Affairs Council (ECOFIN) planned for 10 October 2025.

Each year, tobacco kills 1.1 million people in the WHO European Region. Of those, 153 000 die from exposure to second-hand smoke [1].

Cancer is a leading cause of death in the European Union. Tobacco use remains the main cause of preventable cancer in the EU, accounts for over a quarter (27%) of all cancer cases.

Nicotine products, traditionally perceived as safer alternative to tobacco, are not harmless. Whether smoked, vaped, heated, or taken orally, nicotine products are harmful for several biological, neurological, and cardiovascular reasons, acting also as tobacco gateways, especially among young people. The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights that in Europe, 31.4 million adults and 4.2 million adolescents (aged 13–15 years) are e-cigarettes users. Unless urgent action is taken, the smoke-free generation is at stake.

Europe's next budget represents an opportunity to advance public health and accelerate progress towards Europe's cancer ambitions. New Own Resources such as the Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resource (TEDOR) and prevention-focused fiscal tools, such as the proposal for the Tobacco Taxation Directive (TTD), are smart and effective investments in Europe's economic resilience, productivity, competitiveness and wellbeing.

1. New Own Resources: A fiscal opportunity in the fight against cancer

As Member States discuss the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034, there is growing concern that Europe's health and cancer ambitions risk being scaled back.

The proposal for a **Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resource (TEDOR)** offers a concrete and fair solution, creating an **estimated €11.2 billion annually** in new EU revenue. This represents a **European source of revenue** that strengthens the EU budget, without requiring increased national contributions, while marking a milestone in the fight against tobacco.

The cancer community encourages Member State support for the TEDOR proposal, both for its fiscal revenue potential and for the public health gains it represents, particularly by addressing novel tobacco products that currently evade consistent taxation across the Union.

ECO and ECL also encourage the exploration of similar EU-wide measures, including sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) taxes, which have been shown to reduce consumption, particularly among youth, while generating sustainable revenue for prevention and health promotion.

2. Tobacco Taxation Directive (TTD): a much-needed boost to achieving a tobacco-free generation

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the most ambitious attempt to fight against cancer at EU level, promised the creation of a tobacco-free generation in the EU by 2040, with less than 5% of the population smoking. However, this laudable goal, supported across the public health and cancer community, will not likely be met without recommitment to strong tobacco control measures across all EU member states. The much-needed update to the Tobacco Taxation Directive is a critical delivery tool for the goal.

EU public healthcare expenditure on treating smoking and attributable diseases is estimated at over €25 bn annually [2]. Beyond healthcare costs, EU level estimates suggest tobacco smoking costs the EU economy €544 billion, about 4.6% of the EU27 combined GDP.” [3]

The European cancer community urges all Member States governments to support a comprehensive and ambitious update to the Tobacco Taxation Directive covering new products, adding periodic updates, narrowing price gaps across Member States, and improving enforcement (including raw tobacco).

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References:

1. WHO global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco use 2000-2024 and projections 2025-2030. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025. <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/08-10-2025-who-european-region-has-the-highest-rate-of-tobacco-use-in-the-world--with-an-alarming-rise-in-young-people-using-e-cigarettes--global-report-warns#:~:text=Tobacco%20use%20among%20men%20has,remain%20above%2016%25%20by%202030>
2. <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-017-4685-x>

3. https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/health-promotion-knowledge-gateway/tobacco-smoking_en

The **European Cancer Organisation (ECO)** is the largest non-profit, multi-professional federation in the European cancer community. It brings together hundreds of different professional societies and patient groups to advocate for more effective, efficient, and equitable cancer care.

The **Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)** is a non-profit umbrella organisation made up of 34 national and regional cancer societies advocating for improved cancer control and care across Europe. Transparency registry number: 19265592757-25