



Brussels, 28 Feb. 2013

Sir,

On 19 December 2012, the Commission adopted its proposal for revising the Tobacco Products Directive. The legislative process has started, and many Members have been receiving requests for meetings from the tobacco industry or other stakeholders with commercial interests in tobacco or related products.

We strongly support the letter sent to you on 27 February 2013 by Martin Groote, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, asking you *"for your good offices in drawing the attention of the political groups to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco control and to the Guidelines for the implementation of its Article 5.3"*

Article 5(3) of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control requires that *"in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law"*.

As the European Community is a Party to the Convention, it is also binding on the European Parliament and its Members.

The WHO guidelines on the implementation of Article 5.3 contain the following recommendations:

*"2.1 Parties should interact with the tobacco industry only when and to the extent strictly necessary to enable them to effectively regulate the tobacco industry and tobacco products.*

*2.2 Where interactions with the tobacco industry are necessary, Parties should ensure that such interactions are conducted transparently. Whenever possible, interactions should be conducted in public, for example through public hearings, public notice of interactions, disclosure of records of such interactions to the public."*

We consider it of utmost importance that every single Member of this house is informed about the relevant provisions of the WHO.

We would therefore kindly ask you to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Conference of Presidents with a view to ensuring that all political groups take the necessary action to be in compliance, from the beginning of this year, with the provisions of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control with regard to interactions with stakeholders linked to commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry.

Yours faithfully,

With kind regards

Rebecca Harms

Daniel Cohn-Bendit

Co-Presidents

Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament