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APPG on Smoking and Health

Tuesday 16th June 2009: Committee Room 8 5pm – 6pm

AGM 4.30pm

Tobacco smuggling FCTC

Preparations are now well advanced for the third session of the International Negotiating Body (INB) on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. The Protocol is being discussed under Article 15 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

The current timetable for reaching agreement on the Protocol is extremely tight, with a decision required by the end of the fourth and final INB in mid 2010, for adoption at the next session of the FCTC Conference of the Parties in Uruguay in the last quarter of 2010. Governments must ensure that they are properly represented at INB 3, including delegates with customs and law enforcement as well as health expertise. They must also act to ensure that the negotiations, and the Secretariat that administers the FCTC, are not under-funded.

Among the key elements in a strong Protocol should be:

- Licensing of key participants in the supply chain for tobacco products, including manufacturers, commercial importers and exporters and wholesalers, with licences removed from those shown to be involved in illicit trade
- Requirements that key participants in the supply chain conduct due diligence on their customers and contractors
- Record keeping, so that all participants in the supply chain can make records available to law enforcement and customs authorities
- Requirements that manufacturers and wholesalers do not supply in amounts that exceed legitimate demand in the stated destination market
- A robust and effective tracking and tracing system, so that critical information can be read from tobacco products to customs and law enforcement authorities
- A ban on supply through the internet and through duty free sales, and the abuse of free trade zones to divert tobacco products into illicit channels
- Provisions to ensure that participation in illicit trade is penalised effectively and is treated as a serious crime, and

- Provisions on exchange of information and cooperation between Parties, including training, technical assistance, law enforcement cooperation and cooperation in scientific, technical and technological matters.

Action on illicit trade is crucial to effective tobacco control. Stopping smuggling and counterfeit products saves lives, fights organised crime and raises money.

Cigarette vending machines

A recent survey carried out by Trading Standards officers found that underage young people were able to buy cigarettes in 58 out of 99 cases. The latest survey of smoking among children found that 17 per cent of regular smokers aged 11 to 15 usually buy their cigarettes from vending machines. In contrast, last year only one in 20 adult daily smokers said they had bought cigarettes from vending machines over the past six months.

Young people want tobacco sales out of sight

New research from Cancer Research UK found that there is overwhelming support from young people to put tobacco products out of sight. Researchers interviewed more than 1400 young people across the UK and found that almost two thirds of 11 to 16 year olds want tobacco displays to be placed out of sight.

Covert lobbying by the tobacco industry

The tobacco industry has misrepresented evidence and found to be behind covert lobbying of parliamentarians through front organisations.

Last December ASH revealed that Britain's big three tobacco manufacturers were behind a postcard campaign purporting to represent small shops. MPs were targeted by the Save our Shop campaign but nowhere on the postcard does it say that this is a tobacco industry initiative. Instead it refers to Responsible Retailers a campaign run by the Tobacco Retailers Alliance which is funded by the Tobacco Manufacturers Association (TMA). The TMA in turn funded by BAT, Imperial and Gallaher. Further investigation revealed that the "retailers" group operates out of the TMA office.

Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue <http://www.tabd.com> (an interest group promoting free trade) made a submission to the DH consultation on the Future of Tobacco Control alleging proposals on plain packs were contrary to EU law. One of the five UK members is British American Tobacco and the letter was signed by Jeffries Briginshaw, TABD EU Director. Briginshaw joined TABD from British American Tobacco where he was Head of Political and Regulatory Affairs (2004 – 2007) during which time he served on the TABD policy committee. Nowhere in the letter were the links between this organisation and the tobacco industry disclosed.

Canadian lobbyist Dave Bryans claimed that prohibition of retail displays of tobacco were causing convenience stores to close in Quebec and Ontario. Bryans was flown to the UK in his latest guise as President of the Canadian Convenience Stores Association. Parliamentarians may not be aware that Bryans is a former Executive of Canadian tobacco giant RJR Macdonald. As Bryans himself said in an interview in Canada "Nobody better to teach people how to handle these products than me".

Point of Sale display: Latest research

The impact of tobacco promotion at the point of sale: A systematic review
Janine Paynter and Richard Edwards

A recent systematic review of international research by Paynter and Edwards found that there is strong evidence for a ban on point of sale displays of all smoked tobacco products.

In their article "The impact of tobacco promotion at the point of sale: A systematic review", the authors found twelve peer reviewed studies, 10 of which addressed the impact of point of sale displays of tobacco products on children. Seven out of eight observational studies found a statistically significant association between exposure to tobacco promotion at the Point of Sale and smoking initiation or susceptibility to smoking.

Two experimental studies of children found that students who saw photos of tobacco displays and advertising were significantly more likely to believe that tobacco is more accessible and easier to purchase. They also overestimated the number of teenagers and adults who smoke which the researchers point out is important as a correlation exists between the degree of overestimation and likelihood of smoking. After adjusting for a range of risk factors the authors note that there is a moderately strong association between Point of Sale and smoking susceptibility and uptake of smoking among youth.

British American Tobacco youth protest 2009

On the 30th April 2009 BAT held its AGM in London. Members of ASH Wales youth group Ffaith and ST-AMP from Salford were there to lobby the tobacco company in a bid to prevent more children taking up the habit. The 20-strong group called on shareholders to make cigarettes less attractive to young people through their packaging.

The young people from the two groups also gave a presentation, after the protest, to MPs at the House of Commons.



Early Day Motions

Legislation to control the sale and promotion of tobacco is a crucial element of a comprehensive tobacco control strategy which will protect children. The Health Bill which is currently before the House of Commons proposes a range of measures which includes ending point of sale display of tobacco products and restrictions on the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products from vending machines. We urge you to support not just this measure, but also the immediate prohibition of the sale of tobacco from vending machines.

To show your support for these measure please sign the following Early Day Motions.

[EDM 189 - POINT OF SALE DISPLAY OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS](#)

[EDM 768 - SALE OF TOBACCO FROM VENDING MACHINES](#)

[EDM 554 - PLAIN PACKAGING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS](#)

APPG on Smoking and Health

Tuesday 16th June 2009 – Committee Room 8 5pm – 6pm

The Health Bill is currently before the House of Commons, so this meeting will be a timely opportunity to discuss the state of the Bill and the forthcoming committee stage in the Commons.

We will be joined by the Minister of Public Health, Professor Gerard Hastings and Paul Thomas – Head of Trading Standards at Devon County Council.

AGM – 4.30pm