

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE FCTC IS A KEY TOOL TO ENSURING HEALTHY LIVES FOR ALL	2
SF LAW DOES NOT HURT RUSSIAN HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY	3
CASE STUDY OF TOBACCO CSR: RED CROSS	4
INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE IN SRI LANKA	4
REPORT: INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE EXPANDS IN LATIN AMERICA	5
SLIMS SALES SOAR WORLDWIDE	6
OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN GEORGIA	7
PROGRESS ON DUTY-FREE	8

DEATH CLOCK

SINCE THE OPENING OF THE FIRST WORKING GROUP FOR THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL ON 25 OCTOBER 1999,

74'498'286

PEOPLE HAVE DIED FROM TOBACCO RELATED DISEASES.
(AT 9AM 18 OCTOBER 2014)

COP6 BREAKS NEW GROUND

It's not over till the last round of clapping, but delegates to COP6 already have a lot to be proud of.

The first momentous decision of the week was the adoption of Article 6 guidelines, which should be a turning point in global tobacco control. If governments follow through on the goodwill shown on the tobacco tax issue this week, tobacco taxes and prices should rise sharply in the coming years, with more efficient tax structures, better tax administration and higher revenues.

Most importantly, national implementation of Article 6 guidelines should save millions of lives. This needs to be an immediate priority if we are to have any hope of the world reaching, by 2025, the 30 percent tobacco use reduction target it set itself at the 2013 World Health Assembly.

It was particularly heartening to see a number of finance and tax officials attend this COP session, many of them with stories to tell of the successes they have achieved with tobacco tax reforms in their respective countries.

There were also helpful discussions on the Illicit Trade Protocol: how to achieve its entry into force and how to prepare for implementation. This has the potential to support Article 6 implementation by Parties.

On the Committee B side, a different type of milestone was reached in discussions about FCTC implementation. At COP5, Parties collectively acknowledged that COP decisions and guidelines would not, by themselves, lead to full implementation of the FCTC; at COP6, they advanced a further step in tackling implementation problems.

First, they debated a helpful first report from the Working Group on Sustainable Measures to Strengthen Implementation of the FCTC. Second, they adopted recommendations from the working group, particularly requesting the World Bank, WHO and the UNDP to put a price tag on

FCTC implementation – both the cost of action and inaction.

The Committee also agreed to extend the mandate of the working group, with a focus on moving beyond diagnosing problems towards planning specific solutions, including how to bring all departments of government on board with tobacco control (in other words multi-sectoral coordination as per Article 5.2) and crafting an implementation assistance strategy to be discussed at COP7.

Second, the COP is now on track to step up the usefulness of its reporting system, by streamlining its reporting arrangements and laying the foundations for an implementation review mechanism (IRM). IRMs are common in environmental and human rights treaties, and ensure that Parties reports are used not only to compile a global overview on progress with tobacco control, but also to help Parties achieve better implementation. In the case of the FCTC, this is definitely a work in progress – but we have taken an important step in the right direction.

There were, of course, many other positive decisions at COP6 – too numerous to go through here.

However, COP6 still has a few hours to run.

For today's Committee B session, which runs from 0:900 to 10:00, and the plenary, which starts at 10:30, **here are three thoughts:**

- Agreeing on the FCTC budget and workplan for 2016–2017 is essential, but before doing so the Committee will need to address **Palau's proposal** to establish dedicated travel support for government delegates to attend FCTC-related meetings. Ensuring participation of low-resource Parties at future COP sessions is closely related to governance. Two-thirds of Parties (currently 120) are required to be present at the COP

Continued from page 1

COP6 BREAKS NEW GROUND

to adopt decisions; with participation of 78 Parties significantly affected, travel support is not a mere issue of solidarity, but an essential matter to achieve progress on the FCTC.

- Committee B is also expected to return to **Djibouti's proposal** on transparency with regard to Party delegations. There is no greater threat to tobacco control than industry interference. An impressive number of Parties spoke in favour of this proposal

and we hope an agreement on the decision can be reached. A nod from a single Party is all that it will take to be clear on who represents industry views at COP7. Our advice is simple: do not let this opportunity slip through your fingers.

- Committee B might also need to reflect on **the budget** one more time. In particular, Parties may wish to hear the Secretariat's views on which activities are likely to attract extra-

budgetary resources and what steps the Secretariat plans to take to mobilise funding to deliver on all items of its workplan. It will be equally important that Parties offer their views on the same point and provide active support to the Convention Secretariat to raise all necessary funds.

Last, but not least, the COP is likely to review and adopt a decision that will be subsequently referred to as the Moscow Declaration. Let's go out on a high note!

THE FCTC IS A KEY TOOL TO ENSURING HEALTHY LIVES FOR ALL

Next year, when the WHO FCTC celebrates its 10th anniversary, it looks hopeful that the UN will recognise the treaty as the first "means of implementation" for the proposed new global health goal: "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages". This is the draft text of one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted in 2015 and which cover every aspect of global development, from poverty eradication to the elimination of hunger, and from human rights to climate change.

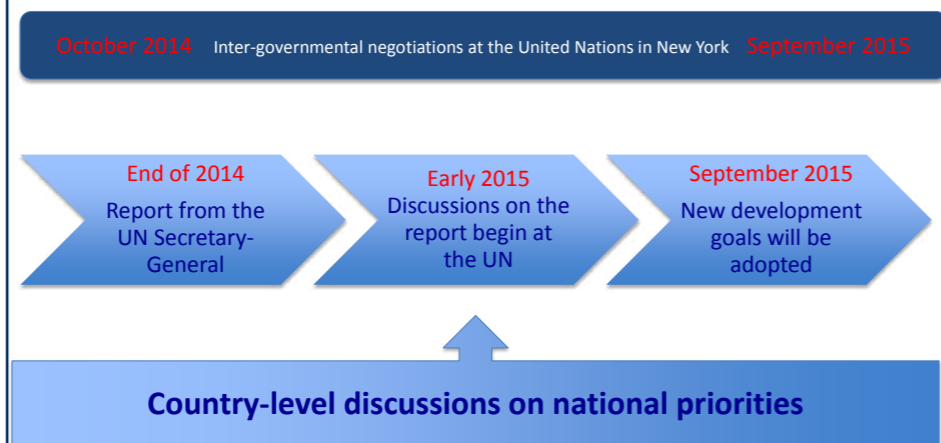
Assuming FCTC/COP/6/B/Conf. Paper No. 6 passes at this morning's plenary, COP will have taken an important step to directly position the FCTC at the centre of global sustainable development initiatives through to 2030.

The decision mandates the Secretariat to "promote the WHO FCTC, wherever possible, in ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda". Equally important, is FCTC/COP/6/B/Conf. Paper No. 4 that urges all Parties to "give due consideration to the inclusion of WHO FCTC implementation in the post-2015 development agenda".

In future global development commitments related to tobacco control, the COP will be recognised as the global governing body.

It is vital that Parties pay careful attention to the detail of the post-2015 draft text and decision-making timeline. While the FCTC is in the draft text, every effort should be made to ensure it stays in the final Outcomes Document. The critical period is between now and September 2015.

Agreement on post-2015 development goals



This COP has also committed to work directly on the 2025 global target of a 30 percent relative reduction in tobacco use prevalence, which was agreed at the World Health Assembly last year as one of the nine targets to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The overarching goal to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25 percent by 2025 clearly can only be reached by gearing up implementation of the FCTC around the world.

The proposed decision FCTC/COP/6/B/Conf. Paper No. 6 calls on FCTC Parties, by 2015, to "consider setting a voluntary national target for relative reduction of current tobacco use" and to "consider developing or strengthening national multisectoral plans to achieve national targets on reduction of tobacco use by 2025". This makes the link between the

FCTC and the global NCD framework much clearer – and confirms the COP's role as the primary global vehicle to advance global tobacco control.

Shana Narula
ASH, US

“THE CRITICAL PERIOD IS BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 2015”

SMOKE-FREE LAW DOES NOT NEGATIVELY AFFECT RUSSIAN HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

On 1 June 2014, Russia's cafes, restaurants, and bars went 100 percent smoke-free (SF). Unsurprisingly, the smoke-free law came into force under enormous pressure from tobacco

“

EVERYWHERE AROUND THE WORLD, WHERE 100 PERCENT SMOKE-FREE IS IN EFFECT, THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY HAS SURVIVED AND FLOURISHED, OFTEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE

”



companies and their allies in the restaurant industry: the usual barrage of media reports predicted the destruction of Russia's hospitality sector, with articles and quotes from various front groups and talking heads. Just three weeks after the measures came into force, the Federation of Restaurateurs and Hoteliers of Russia published unsubstantiated data reporting sales in the industry had fallen 20-30 percent.

Official data, however, paints a much different picture. Russia's State Statistical Bureau, Rosstat, analysed hospitality revenue data for June to August and concluded that the smoke-free law has had no negative effect on business. On the contrary, revenues actually improved.

According to Rosstat, revenue for the restaurant industry from January to August 2014 was 768.7 billion rubles, which is 2.4 percent more than in January to August 2013, adjusting for inflation. The data show that revenue grew throughout the summer, with revenues for June (when SF came into force) 1.4 percent higher than in May.

The data is consistent throughout the country; restaurants in about 75 percent of Russia's regions ended the summer season with higher revenue. The lack of increased revenue in the remaining 25 percent of regions matches pre-existing trends and is

not related to smoke-free. Further, additional compliance monitoring conducted in 14 regions of the country including Moscow over the summer also show compliance levels of well over 90 percent.

Certainly, more in-depth analysis is required over the long term, particularly given the pressures on Russia's economy due to the current geopolitical situation. Regardless, the preliminary data from Rosstat shows quite clearly that the "smoke-free apocalypse" did not strike Russia's restaurant industry.

There is nothing surprising in this – everywhere around the world, where 100 percent smoke-free is in effect, the restaurant industry has survived and flourished, often stronger than before. Russia's successes in the face of the tobacco industry's scare tactics show that comprehensive 100 percent smoke-free measures are popular, good for business and good for public health.

Joshua Abrams and Maria Skatova
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

TONGUE TWISTER

TRY AND SAY FAST FIVE TIMES THE FOLLOWING HEADLINE, FOR THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 6

"SUPERSLIMS AND SLIMS SALES SOAR WORLDWIDE"

CASE STUDY OF TOBACCO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: RED CROSS

The tobacco industry has invested in disaster relief as a strategic focus of its so-called 'corporate social responsibility' (CSR). The plentiful funding opportunities have led some Red Cross societies to ignore regulations prohibiting association with the tobacco industry.

In 2010, when Southeast Asian Red Cross societies appeared in the media shaking hands with tobacco companies, the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) contacted the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to complain.

A survey of JTI and Philip Morris websites shows that the problem is not confined to Asia. As it begins to go beyond its traditional focus on disaster relief to work on prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the IFRC has recognised the need to clean house to ensure that Movement components do not influence health policy.

Red Cross societies have a unique legal status, and they work closely with governments in disaster relief and other health operations. Red Cross leaders are often very close to the government: for example the President of the United States is traditionally the honorary President of the American Red Cross.

Under pressure from health advocates and International Red Cross organisations (both IFRC and ICRC), the International Red Cross Museum in Geneva returned a donation that it had accepted from JTI to help finance renovations. In 2013, the IFRC Governing Board called on all components of the Movement to respect regulations that prohibit associating the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement with the tobacco industry.

Tobacco control networks have helped monitor associations between Red Cross societies and the tobacco industry, largely using web research. Yesterday morning, for example, a Google search called up a page of the

American Red Cross confirming that Altria is proud to partner with the American Red Cross, with a quote that the company's contribution "helps the American Red Cross immediately respond to disasters as they occur," and adds "It's important that the Red Cross has a stable source of funds when needed."

Branches of both the Swiss and Vietnamese Red Cross have ongoing projects with the tobacco industry, and Philip Morris reports giving charitable contributions in 2013 to national Red Cross societies from other countries, including Russia and Serbia.

This problem if not, of course, restricted to Red Cross societies. Tobacco control advocates inside and outside government clearly have lots of work yet to do to educate people about the ethical issues around 'partnerships' with the tobacco industry.

Alice Grainger-Gasser
World Heart Federation

TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE IN SRI LANKA

It is an evidence based conclusion that the tobacco industry has systematically hindered, delayed, obstructed and prevented adoption of effective tobacco control policies. This has been a universal practice. The tobacco industry's strategies have included the creation of front groups to sabotage tobacco control policies and dissemination of biased and inaccurate information about the harms inflicted by tobacco. The industry has also directly attacked the World Health Organization's tobacco control work.

Regulations for pictorial health warnings (PHW) on cigarette packets were published in the Sri Lankan Government's Gazette on 8 August 2012. However, they have still not been implemented because of legal action launched by the Ceylon Tobacco Company (CTC).

Sri Lanka's Parliament unanimously approved legislation for PHWs that would cover 80 percent of the surface area of cigarette packets (which would have made them the world's largest warnings at the time). However, the tobacco industry, through judicial action, has reduced the warnings' size to 60 percent, and this law will not be implemented until the end of 2014.

In addition to delaying the implementation

of PHW regulations, the tobacco industry has distracted the public by focusing attention on the minor problem of beedis in Sri Lanka. Beedis are a type of hand-rolled cigarette found throughout South Asia but they account for a mere three percent of tobacco use in the country. The industry's focus on beedis is intended to divert attention from the 97 percent of smokers who use cigarettes.

The tobacco industry also distracts attention from its lethal activities by engaging in activities such as CTC's Sustainable Agriculture Development Programme (SADP) in the guise of performing corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Chairman of CTC recently declared its SADP a world-class programme that deserves the attention and accolades it has received.

The industry's Youth Smoking Prevention campaign is driven aggressively island-wide. Despite its name, the real motive is to entice young people to desire the "forbidden fruit" of cigarettes.

Article 13 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was implemented in Sri



Lanka by banning tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship through Act No. 27 of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) in 2007. However, the Act did not specifically exclude the tobacco industry's CSR activities. Correction of this omission will serve to further strengthen the Act.

Manjari Peiris
Jeewaka Foundation - Sri Lanka

NEW REPORT DOCUMENTS HOW TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE HAS EXPANDED IN LATIN AMERICA

In 2012, Brazil banned all flavours and additives in tobacco products throughout the country, citing evidence that they lured many young people into starting to smoke. At the time, the measures were the strongest in the world.

More than two years later, the ban is yet to be put in place because of obstacles erected by the tobacco industry.

The case is featured in a new publication by civil society organisations in seven countries: Health is not Negotiable: Civil Society against the Tobacco Industry's Strategies in Latin America. Case studies 2014.

The report documents cases in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay, portraying Big Tobacco's tactics to block the enactment and enforcement of tobacco control policies.

Tobacco consumption is a global epidemic that carries serious health, social, economic and environmental consequences. In Latin America alone, tobacco use causes 1,039 deaths daily.

Although over 170 countries have ratified the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), making significant progress in their fight against the tobacco epidemic, the tobacco industry (TI) has deployed a series of increasingly sophisticated and aggressive actions to impede these advances.

The new publication highlights:

- The creation of alliances between the TI and different front groups to block tobacco tax increases;
- The industry's innovative tactics to violate bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship;
- Its explicit opposition to policies that prohibit cigarette additives and flavourings. All the above are measures proven to combat the tobacco epidemic, in part by reducing the number of young people who try cigarettes.

The report exposes other industry strategies meant to intimidate and to stop the advance of tobacco control policies, such as launching legal action against governments and civil society organisations.

In Brazil, the new regulation on additives banned all flavours, including menthol, honey, cherry, tutti-frutti and chocolate, plus additives like ammonia, sweeteners, colourants, vitamins



and essential fatty acids. Tobacco manufacturers were given 18 months to take flavoured cigarettes off the market and 24 months to remove other flavoured tobacco products from shop shelves.

In response, the TI, through allies like the National Confederation of Industry, launched a series of court challenges, one of which is still pending – in the Supreme Court of Justice.

The report's analysis of the situation in different countries reveals the TI's increasingly strong and aggressive tactics in recent years to defend its commercial interests against measures to protect public health. It is essential that these actions, which have also provided visibility to the industry, are investigated and exposed.

Civil society organisations have proven that they play a key role in monitoring the TI's strategies and developing mechanisms to expose and discredit them.

The new material, available in Spanish, English and Portuguese, condenses the work of Interamerican Heart Foundation Argentina – (FIC Argentina), Interamerican Heart Foundation Mexico – (FIC México), Corporate Accountability International Colombia – (CAI Colombia), Alliance for Tobacco Control – (ACT), Network for a Smokefree Chile/Popular Health Education Foundation – CHLT/EPES, Peru's National Permanent Anti-Tobacco Commission – (COLAT) and the Tobacco Epidemic Research Center in Uruguay – (CIET).

The first edition of Health is not Negotiable was launched in 2012 and shared the experiences of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and

Mexico. The new edition includes cases from Uruguay, Chile and Peru, revealing how TI interference pervades Latin America.

Despite the progress achieved in tobacco control in the region, measures remain to be adopted in many countries, including tobacco tax increases and a full ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. Strong efforts must also be made to guarantee the implementation of existing measures, that the policy-making process is transparent and that all steps are taken to avoid TI interference with policy-making, as required by FCTC Article 5.3.

It is important to remember that it is the State's responsibility to guarantee health as a human right, assume its commitment to defend health policy from commercial interests, and consolidate strategies to fight the tobacco epidemic.

Dra. Mariela Alderete
Vicedirector – FIC Argentina
Coordinator of the Regional Initiative
"Health is not negotiable"

Download Spanish version: http://ficargentina.org/images/stories/Documentos/la_salud_no_se_negocia_2014_es_final.pdf

Download English version: http://ficargentina.org/images/stories/Documentos/la_salud_no_se_negocia_2014_in_final.pdf

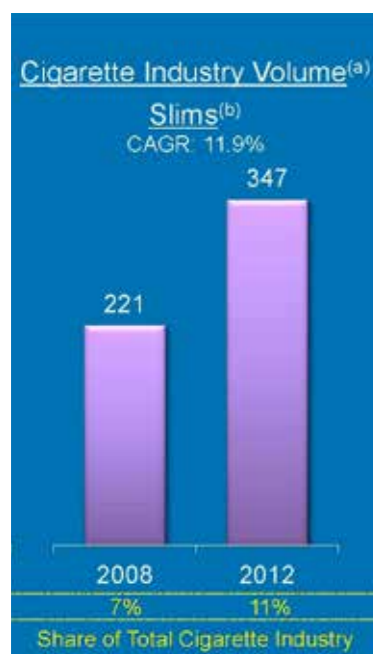
Download Portuguese version: [portugués: http://ficargentina.org/images/stories/Documentos/la_salud_no_se_negocia_2014_po_final.pdf](http://ficargentina.org/images/stories/Documentos/la_salud_no_se_negocia_2014_po_final.pdf)

SUPERSLIMS AND SLIMS SALES SOAR WORLDWIDE

Worldwide, the sales of slims and superslims are increasing dramatically due to aggressive tobacco industry marketing strategies. Many new brand variations have been introduced, often supported by advertising. Between 2008 and 2012, sales volumes of slims/superslims cigarettes increased by 57 percent, from 221 billion to 347 billion per year (see PMI graph).

It is highly objectionable that the tobacco industry appeals to women and girls through slims/superslims cigarettes, which associate smoking with fashionability, stylishness, weight loss and thin body images.

Global trends show female smoking uptake is growing in numerous countries, including in Asia. Flavoured and scented cigarettes,



Source: Philip Morris International, Nov. 20, 2013 (Units billion; Excluding China, US, duty-free)

particularly menthol flavour, are increasing in popularity. Superslim cigarette packs contain 16-20 very thin cigarettes. Described as "lip-stick" packs or "purse" packs, designed to fit in a purse, and coming in "colours intended for the smoker to coordinate with outfits or mood" they are proliferating. An example of a lip-stick pack is the Philip Morris' brand, A-Volution, manufactured in Indonesia for export to the region.

Slims/superslims cigarettes are also deceptive in that many consumers perceive them to be much less harmful than regular cigarettes.

In light of the above considerations, slims/superslims cigarettes should simply be banned. These products are addictive and harm users,



Advertising from Russia, 2010



Advertising from Russia, 2010

and should not be allowed to be designed by the tobacco industry so as to appear more attractive and less harmful.

The draft EU Directive, revising the 2001 tobacco products directive, introduced in December 2012, initially contained a provision to ban slims/superslims by banning cigarettes measuring 7.5mm or less in width. This prompted strong opposition from the tobacco industry and ultimately, the slims/superslims

Lipstick Pack Sold in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Singapore



ban was not included in the final EU Directive.

However, the adopted Directive effectively prohibits slims/superslims package formats by requiring minimum dimensions for the height and width of package warnings. Similarly, Australian plain packaging requirements standardise package formats, which effectively prohibits packages with slim/superslim shapes (though slims/superslims cigarettes are not per se banned.) These measures recognise that health warnings on slims/superslims packages can become severely distorted and less effective.

Legislation banning slims/superslims cigarettes is a necessary measure to help reduce smoking among women and girls.

Rob Cunningham
Canadian Cancer Society

Mary Assunta
Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance

TOBACCO CONTROL OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN GEORGIA



Tobacco control advocates in Georgia organised a bike ride to mark World No Tobacco Day, 2014

The election of a new government in November 2013 has been positive for tobacco control in Georgia.

A Commission on Tobacco Control, which includes 10 different government ministers, was created. Its working group includes high-ranking officials and the Georgian Tobacco Control Alliance. The Commission has developed a national tobacco control strategy and a 2013-2018 Action Plan, based on the government fulfilling its obligations as a Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

Unfortunately, the tobacco industry exercises strong influence in Georgia. Among other things, this has resulted in the lack of a budget allocated to the Action Plan; weakened measures to prohibit smoking in bars and restaurants; and postponement of a plan to license the import and production of tobacco.

A legal vacuum has delayed implementation of other measures that have already been mandated. For example, tobacco industry sponsorship has been banned since 2009 but penalties are yet to be established. One result is that Japan Tobacco International (JTI) is sponsoring the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS) and theatres in the country.

At the invitation of the government, the Tobacco Control Alliance suggested amendments to strengthen existing laws but revision of the legislation has also been delayed.

However, the tobacco control agenda is progressing slowly on other fronts.

By invitation of the Ministry of Health, in June 2013 a mission from the FCTC Secretariat visited Georgia to assess FCTC implementation, though action on its recommendations is yet to take place.

In late April 2014, Georgia hosted officials from the WHO European Regional Office, Department of Non-communicable diseases. A workshop organised for the event discussed the Non-communicable Diseases Strategy 2025 as well as tobacco, cancer and hypertension control issues. Officials pressured the Georgian Government and Parliament to fulfil their obligations to tackle NCDs.

On 7 July 2014, about 100 professionals participated in the National Tobacco or Health Conference. The agenda included discussion on the current tobacco control situation, smoke-free medical and educational facilities and the results of civil society's monitoring of tobacco control measures in healthcare facilities. Using these results, we urged the government and parliament to strengthen

national legislation and to facilitate participation of civil society in enforcement mechanisms.

Moreover, our Alliance has organised a number of events recently. To mark World No Tobacco Day 2014, we held a bicycle tour through Tbilisi to raise awareness about tobacco control issues. We also organised a press conference and TV programme that focused on the shortcomings of FCTC implementation in Georgia.

In addition, the Tobacco Control Alliance participated in a meeting organised by the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health in Tbilisi on the new tobacco control strategy and the problems related to making amendments to existing legislation. At that meeting we revealed how the Ministry of Economy has a negative effect on tobacco control efforts as well as the Ministry's relationship to the tobacco industry.

George Bakhturidze
Chairman, Tobacco Control Alliance in Georgia

Director, FCTC Implementation and Monitoring Center in Georgia



DIRTY ASHTRAY AWARD

To delegates who speak before reading the conference papers



ORCHID AWARD

– Malaysia & the Philippines, for championing the protection of tobacco regulation in future free trade and investment agreements

– Djibouti, for incredible stamina, courage and determination to protect public health and as an example of how one Party can make a difference

– Dr Olcott Gunasekera, for being a long-time inspirational champion of tobacco control champions



The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) is a global alliance of NGOs working to achieve the strongest possible Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Views expressed in the Alliance Bulletin are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the sponsors.

Framework Convention Alliance

Rue Henri-Christinè 5
Case Postale 567
CH-1211
Geneva, Switzerland

Representative Office:
FCA c/o ASH International
701 4th Street NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20001 USA

Phone: +1 202 289 7155
Fax: +1 202 289 7166
Email: info@fctc.org

www.fctc.org

 [facebook.com/FrameworkConventionAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/FrameworkConventionAlliance)

 twitter.com/FCAforTC



COUNTRIES MAKING PROGRESS ON DUTY-FREE, MUCH MORE TO DO

A growing number of countries are lowering the duty-free allowance for tobacco products for incoming travellers. While many countries have traditionally had a duty-free allowance on arrival of 200 cigarettes (and sometimes more), recent changes include Palau lowering the allowance to 20 cigarettes (one opened pack), Australia and New Zealand lowering to 50 cigarettes, and India lowering to 100 cigarettes.

The following is an international ranking based on available information of countries/territories with the lowest duty-free import allowances for cigarettes:

0	Barbados, Singapore, Sri Lanka
19	Hong Kong
20	Palau
40	Bulgaria ¹ , Estonia, Greece ¹ , Hungary ¹ , Latvia ¹ , Lithuania ¹ , Poland ¹ , Romania ² , Austria ³ , Slovak Republic ¹
50	Australia, New Zealand
80	Guatemala
100	India

BANS ON DUTY-FREE TOBACCO PRODUCT SALES

Two countries to date are known to have effectively banned duty-free tobacco sales to departing travellers: Nepal did so in 2008, while the Philippines applied the full tobacco excise tax to tobacco sold in duty-free stores in 2013.

The following bullet points outline where duty-free tobacco sales have been substantially restricted though not completely banned:

- **European Union:** in 1999, the EU banned duty-free sales to individuals travelling within the EU (now consisting of 28 Member States)
- **Bulgaria:** in 2008, Bulgaria went beyond the EU position by banning duty-free sales at land borders with non-EU countries (Serbia, Macedonia, Turkey) (duty-free sales are still allowed at international airports in Bulgaria)
- **Canada:** since 2001, Canada has applied the federal tobacco tax for sales in "duty-free" stores, but not provincial tobacco tax.

Curbing duty-free tobacco sales reduces tobacco consumption and increases government revenue. It is encouraging that progress on duty-free, especially import allowances, is starting to accelerate. An opportunity remains, however, for far more Parties to take action.

Rob Cunningham
Canadian Cancer Society

Notes

1. Applies to travellers by land or sea, but not by air.
2. Applies to travellers by land, sea and air.
3. Austria: at border with Samnauntal part of Switzerland only.

THANK YOU

The FCA would like to say a big thank you to the Russian Federation for its hospitality in hosting COP6. It has been a pleasure to spend a week in the great city of Moscow along with the representatives of Parties from across the world, who have negotiated and taken decisions which will assist in the effective implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

We would also like to thank all of our FCA members, both in Moscow and at home, for their untiring work to make COP6 a success. A special thank you for their invaluable support for FCA COP activities goes to:

World Lung Foundation
American Cancer Society
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
The Cancer Council Victoria

Norwegian Cancer Society
Non-Smokers' Rights Association of Canada
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Cancer Research United Kingdom
Action on Smoking and Health
Canadian Cancer Society



A special thank you to Dr Olcott, who has guided so many of us in the tobacco control community over the years. We will miss you at COP7.