

**CONSENSUS POSITION  
REGARDING PROTECTION OF TOBACCO CONTROL POLICIES FROM  
TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE**

On behalf of the *Seimas Committee on Health Affairs, Ministry of Health, National Health Board, National tobacco and alcohol control coalition (NGO) and Drug, tobacco and alcohol control department*, we would like to express appreciation for all the commitment and great work delivered by the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety team implementing Tobacco product directive. However we are all still facing significant challenges for the transparent implementation of this complex Directive.

The aim of Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is to ensure that polices can be put into practice without interference from the tobacco industry. On the 24 th of June, 2016, EU ratified the WHO FCTC Illicit trade protocol (ITP) to eliminate the illicit trade of tobacco products. Article 8 of the ITP, which deals with track and tracing, specifically notes in its point 12 that obligations assigned to a Party shall not be performed by or delegated to the tobacco industry.

FCTC and ITP must be reflected in how the EU institutions and Member States, party to the FCTC, engage with the tobacco industry. Therefore an industry operated solution should not be considered.

We strongly believe that the industry should have no role in choosing or deciding upon policy, implementation standards, assessment and development of all the functions inherent in the track and trace systems. Cost issue is somewhat irrelevant at this stage, since industry should meet all the incurred costs of control, while higher price of tobacco products would positively influence public health outcomes. Interaction between EU institutions, Member States and tobacco industry for the implementation of a tracking and tracing system should be limited to absolutely necessary processes of governmental control. Tracking and tracing system needs to be reliable and transparent, controlled by governments and free from interference by the vested interests. Legal tobacco industries should comply with laws and regulations; provide accurate and verifiable data, as well as access for control efforts.

Also we strongly believe, that it is crucial to focus on eliminating illicit tobacco products from the third countries. Common efforts in this field will facilitate national authorities to use the most suitable approach to reduce illicit tobacco trade.

This position reflects a consensus agreed among different Lithuanian institutions and nongovernmental organizations involved in public health and tobacco control.

Chair of the Committee on Health Affairs



A. Širinskienė

Minister of Health



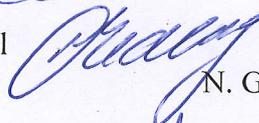
A. Veryga

Chair of the National Health Board



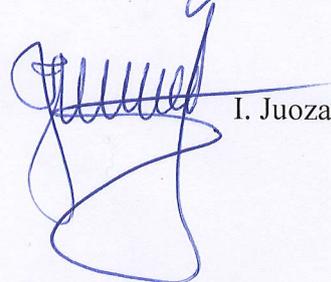
J. Pundzius

President of the National tobacco and alcohol control coalition



N. Goštautaitė-Midttun

Director of the Drug, tobacco and alcohol control department



I. Juozapavičienė