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From: ÖGB Europabüro [office@oegb-eu.at]
To: HARMS Rebecca
Cc:
Subject: ÖGB position on the EU Tobacco Products Directive
Attachments:

Sent: Mon 7/1/2013 12:05 PM

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Dear Members of the European Parliament,

The Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB) is gravely concerned that in the implementation process of the new EU Tobacco Products Directive, this Directive – despite our full understanding of the Commission’s efforts with regard to health policy – will lead to severe distortions of structural and industrial policy.

Particularly, this affects some highly specialised production plants in Austria, where the management and union representation see their medium- and long-term existence at risk in the event of the implementation of this Directive. The tragic aspect is that it has to be feared that in the medium term these highly-specialised enterprises will migrate and around 800 workers will lose their jobs – yet the tobacco products will then be imported or even smuggled from countries with fewer restrictions.

We therefore ask you to oppose the negative industrial and labour market policy implications of this Directive.

With respect to the contents, the attached proposed amendments relate to:

- Deletion of the greatly extended powers of the EU Commission (“Delegated acts”), to prevent future decisions of the Commission in the framework of the Tobacco Products Directive from leading to reduction and displacement of production and the loss of highly-qualified jobs – without the Austrian Government having any further involvement;
- That no reduction and displacement of production and the loss of highly-qualified jobs takes place in the highly specialised Austrian production companies as a result of the technical specifications in the Directive or the prohibitions envisaged (menthol, slim, flavours, etc.) and various warning notices.

The Austrian Trade Union Federation explicitly states that a negotiating outcome that failed to take account of these views – even if funds from the Globalisation Fund were concurrently made available in compensation – would not be defensible.

We kindly asks the Members of the European Parliament, in particular of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee, to support our position in the upcoming legislative process. Please find enclosed the related amendments with respect to our key demands.

For any further question, please, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Röpke
Head of Office

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