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From: Weidenhammer Packaging Group [Ralf.Weidenhammer@weidenhammer.de] Sent: Mon 7/1/2013 12:10 PM
To: HARMS Rebecca
Cc:
Subject: Tobacco Products Directive 2 (TPD2), amendments to chapter 2, article 13
Attachments:

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Dear Ms Harms,

Please allow me to introduce myself and my company, the Weidenhammer Packaging Group, based in Hockenheim, Germany. My name is Ralf Weidenhammer, Managing Director of our family-owned and managed business founded in 1956. Since its foundation, the Weidenhammer Packaging Group has become European market leader in the manufacture of spirally wound composite cans for consumer products. Our website www.weidenhammer.de gives a full breakdown of our business activities.

My reason for contacting you is the European Commission Directive Ref. COM (2012) 788 Final dated 19/12/2012 – also known as Tobacco Products Directive 2 (TPD2) – that is currently being reviewed by the ENVI committee. As you know, ENVI members have submitted a high number of amendments for TPD2, including several amendments that particularly suggest a revision of chapter 2, article 13: amendments N° 872-879 and N° 881.

Article 13 regulates the packaging of fine-cut tobacco products and could have dramatic consequences not only for the European packaging industry, but also for the end consumer. In its most recent version, this article clearly states that pouches are the only form of packaging allowed for such a tobacco product. As a consequence all other types of packaging – including composite cans – would no longer be allowed for fine-cut tobacco. This would have a severe impact on our business since a considerable part of our production is dedicated to composite cans for fine-cut tobacco.

There is no scientific evidence at all that our packaging has any more negative effect or impact on smoking trends (or on prohibiting youth smoking, which is the target of TPD2) compared to pouch packaging. During the past few months we have therefore been in contact with many MEPs inside and outside the ENVI committee, and have asked them to support a revision of article 13. Almost all of them agreed that this respective article should be amended to allow it to be changed.

Meanwhile, the AGRI committee of the European Parliament has already suggested deleting article 13. Several members of the ENVI committee, including MEP Linda McAvan, have further signalled that they would support a revision, that would allow the future use of the composite can.

This is why I would like to ask you today to support the amendments N° 872-879 and N° 881 for article 13 in the final vote of the ENVI committee, therefore ensuring that composite cans will continue to be allowed for the packaging of fine-cut tobacco.

Please find attached a leaflet that sums up all important information. It explains why we think it is necessary that article 13 should be amended and the change adopted.

If you have any questions regarding this topic, I am very happy to answer them personally. I would be very grateful if you could support our concerns in additional debates of the ENVI committee and if you could inform me about your further steps in this matter. My contact details are recorded below.

Yours sincerely

Ralf Weidenhammer

Managing Director

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