



Brussels, 4 June 2018

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, InterAmerican Heart Foundation, the Healthy Latin America Coalition and the NCD Alliance, with members and partners across the European Union, Latin America and globally.

We want to express our deep concern over the risks to public health arising from the EU's trade negotiations with Mexico, Chile and Mercosur. EPHA's new report, *Unhealthy Trades*, which is attached, highlights the scandal that tobacco is explicitly identified among the EU's offensive interests in negotiations with Mercosur. As you will surely know, tobacco is a product unlike any other in that its principal effect is to cause chronic diseases, killing 700,000 people annually in Europe alone, and is among the top five risk factors for disability adjusted life years in Mexico, Chile and all Mercosur countries.

On the 17th May we wrote to Commissioners Malmström, Timmermans and Andriukaitis, calling on them to publicly commit to:

- Exclude health-harmful lobbies, especially big tobacco, from all future EU trade negotiations: Trade deals have a proven impact on public health, therefore the tobacco lobby must be excluded as they are excluding from health policymaking under the UN Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, FCTC.
- Publicly drop tobacco as an offensive interest in EU-Mercosur and never identify tobacco as offensive interest in any future trade negotiations
- Conduct a health impact assessment of all trade deals in place and for future deals conduct the HIA before the start of negotiations; institute a requirement that Free Trade Agreements cannot be concluded before the sustainable impact assessments (SIAs) are finalised and the deals amended to ensure sustainability commitments are in no way undermined.

We asked them to respond to us by World No Tobacco Day on the 31st May. As that date has now passed, we urge you to write to Commissioners Malmström, Timmermans and Andriukaitis calling on them to fulfil the EU commitment to integrating health in all policies (article 168 TFEU), and to raise this issue with your trade and industry ministers. We would also ask you to raise it at the next EPSCO council meeting on the 21st of June.

Tobacco lobbyists are rightly excluded from health policy making, but both the FCTC, and the contribution of health ministries to the Sustainable Development Goals domestically and globally, are undermined if Big Tobacco is allowed to influence EU trade policy. We call on you to help us make sure that public health is properly accounted for in all current and future EU trade deals. We look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

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*Secretary General*  
European Public Health Alliance  
(EPHA)

**Matthew L. Myers**  
*President*  
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**Beatriz Champagne, PhD**  
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Healthy Latin America Coalition (CLAS)  
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**Eugenia Ramos, PhD**  
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## **ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS:**

For more than 20 years, the **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** has fought to protect children and save lives from the #1 cause of preventable death: tobacco use. Our vision is a future free of the death and disease caused by tobacco. Because tobacco has killed enough.

The **European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)** is a change agent, and Europe's leading NGO alliance advocating for better health. A member-led organisation made up of public health NGOs, patient groups, health professionals and disease groups, we work to improve health and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe.

The **InterAmerican Heart Foundation** is the official intercontinental foundation for the Americas with a focus on promoting healthy eating habits, living tobacco-free, regular physical activity, and a positive psychosocial environment healthy lifestyles in order to prevent cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.

The **Healthy Latin America Coalition (CLAS)** is an alliance of organizations interested in working together to reduce non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the region of Latin America.

The **NCD Alliance** is a unique civil society network uniting 2,000 civil society organisations in more than 170 countries dedicated to improving non-communicable diseases (NCD) prevention and control worldwide.