Targeting the European Commission:
The 7 Lobbying Techniques of Big Tobacco

Olivier Hoedeman, CEO
24/03/2021
Ms. Ursula von der Leyen  
President, European Commission  

Dear President,

On behalf of Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), I would like to - under the right of access to documents in the EU treaties as developed in Regulation 1049/2001 - request access to the following documents:
- all reports (and other notes) from meetings between the European Commission and representatives of the tobacco industry (producers, distributors, importers etc, as well as organisations and individuals that are funded by and/or work to further the interests of the tobacco industry), during 2019.
- all correspondence (including emails) between the European Commission and representatives of the tobacco industry (producers, distributors, importers etc. as well as organisations and individuals that are funded by and/or work to further the interests of the tobacco industry), during 2019
- a list of all the above-mentioned documents (including dates, names of participants/senders/recipient and their affiliation, subject of meeting/correspondence)

There is a clear public interest in disclosure of these documents, with reference to the World Health Organisation’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Article 5.3) and its guidelines for implementation:
- “in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall in particular ensure that:

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The Role of the European Commission

- Differing response across different DGs e.g. DG SANTE

- Main themes:
  - Failing to limit contact
  - Refusing disclosure of information
  - Reactive transparency
The 3 ways the EC can protect itself from industry influence — 🗝️
Be transparent about interactions with the tobacco industry

Outline and establish policy regarding industry contacts

Broaden the interpretation of “public interest” around lobbying
Full Report available via: https://tinyurl.com/3d47ymvy

Access to documents request available at: https://tinyurl.com/4mxestyb