

Updates from Tobacco Europe

Brussels, July 9th

Background: On 13 March, Tobacco Europe lodged [a complaint](#) with the Ombudsman concerning the evaluation process of the legislative framework for tobacco control, highlighting specific concerns about the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP).

Following our submission, the Ombudsman [initiated an investigation](#) on 25 April, focusing on how the European Commission addressed alleged conflicts of interest within a framework contract on tobacco control policy.

Update: In June, Tobacco Europe received confirmation from the Ombudsman that a meeting with the Commission on this case would be held on 28 June. A draft report will be prepared, and shared with Tobacco Europe for any additional comments. Such report will serve as the basis for the Ombudsman to formulate a position on the matter. Although the timeline remains unclear, we anticipate receiving feedback by July.

In parallel, a numerous of other conflict of interests have popped up recently, impacting various industries and for which the Commission and the Ombudsman have been taking taking a clear stance, notably in [pharma](#), [big techs](#), as well as another case involving a [consultancy](#) specialised in competition law, in which the element of **professional conflict of interest** was considered.

Tobacco Europe will continue providing regular updates on this matter.