



Brussels, 10 November 2023
TAXUD.C.3/GM

MEETING WITH THE SMOKE FREE PARTNERSHIP

7 November 2023

MEETING REPORT

- 1. Subject** Tobacco taxation
- 2. Date and Place** Rue de Spa 3 (DG TAXUD)
- 3. Participants** DG TAXUD (6 participants)
The Smoke Free Partnership (5 participants)

4. Minutes

The Director of the Smoke Free Partnership (SFP) introduced the organization, its goals, and its ongoing work in tobacco control policy.

DG TAXUD informed SFP that the revision of the Tobacco Taxation Directive ⁽¹⁾ is postponed without specific timeline for the moment.

SFP representatives emphasized the need to revise the Tobacco Taxation Directive as soon as possible aiming to: increase excise duty rates for tobacco products; closing the gap between cigarettes and fine cut tobacco (as these two products will remain the main products affecting health outcomes of the EU); adaptation of excise duty rates to inflation; inclusion new products (liquids for electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco and etc. which are

⁽¹⁾ [Council Directive 2011/64/EU](#) on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco.

substitutes for traditional tobacco products) into the scope of the Tobacco Taxation Directive.

Representative from the SFP presented: a) a few case studies showing how inflation erodes the value of cigarettes taxes; b) how much should/would it be possible to increase excise taxes in order to reduce smoking prevalence that would result in better public health, more tax revenue.

SFP expressed concern about the cross-border purchase of tobacco by private individuals, which is particularly relevant in the presence of price differences.