



Ms Ana Gomes MEP

Vice Chair of the PANA Committee

European Parliament

Bât. Altiero Spinelli 14G205, 60, rue Wiertz, B-1047 Bruxelles

Brussels, 22 February 2017

Re: Forthcoming European Conference on Fighting Organised Crime and Terrorism 2017 - 22 March 2017 Brussels

Dear Ms. Gomes,

I am writing on behalf of over 30 organisations in the public health and tobacco control community to draw your attention to concerns related to your announced participation as a speaker in the *European Conference on Fighting Organised Crime and Terrorism 2017* and to respectfully ask you to withdraw from this conference.

As you may be aware, the conference is organised with steering and funding by a tobacco company, which has input to the programme and provides speakers to this conference. This is against the guidelines to Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control¹ (FCTC), which has been ratified by the EU and all its 28 Member States.

The European Union and its Member States, as Parties to the WHO FCTC, are committed to and legally bound to protect its policies from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry. As you may know, one of the major drivers behind the development of the FCTC was the understanding that the tobacco industry is not just another industry. In other words, the specificities of the industry mean

¹ <http://www.who.int/fctc/en/>

that normal rules of engagement cannot apply. This understanding has come about due to actions by the tobacco industry itself. Indeed, for many years, there is solid and overwhelming evidence (for the most part provided by internal documents from the tobacco industry itself) that the tobacco industry has actively and systematically sought to hinder, delay, and prevent the adoption of effective tobacco control policies.^{2,3,4,5} Finally, Recommendation 2.1 of the guidelines to Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC⁶ specifically states that “*Parties should interact with the tobacco industry only when and to the extent strictly necessary to enable them to effectively regulate the tobacco industry and tobacco products*”. The participation of any EU or national official in such a conference is not “strictly necessary”.

Furthermore, the participation of EU officials in this meeting will raise questions on the international scene, and could impact the position of the EU as a whole in the process of ratification and operationalisation of the International Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (ITP) by the EU itself as well as its Member States. Indeed, six months after ratification, the EU should not risk being perceived by the global community as ambiguous about its commitment to the Protocol. It is perhaps worth mentioning again here that, on the 12th November 2016, at the 7th Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC in India, all Parties to the FCTC agreed once again, that “*Except interactions to the extent strictly necessary, parties to the Convention are urged not to consider any proposal or assistance related to tracking and tracing from the tobacco industry or submitted on their behalf, including in the course of the preparatory activities for MOP1 in accordance with their obligation under WHO FCTC.*”

We fully recognise the importance of European cooperation and exchange in the fight against organised crime and terrorism. These are some of the most important societal challenges facing Europe at this time. That is why we condemn the tobacco industry’s attempt to use these crucial concerns for all Europeans in order to further promote itself and its products.

Given that tobacco kills upwards of 6 million people every year and one in two of its long-term users, when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer, that the tobacco industry has in the past been under investigation by the European Commission and OLAF, as well as national law enforcement across several EU member states for alleged involvement in smuggling of cigarettes, we urge you not to help this lethal industry to gain a reputational profit by claiming to fight against the loss of human life to organised crime and terror.

In view of the real and perceived conflicts of interest inherent to this meeting, we urge you to withdraw from the European Conference on Fighting Organised Crime and Terrorism 2017. This would send a very strong signal that the EU is taking its legal obligations under the FCTC seriously. In the coming days, together with other partners within civil society we will be launching a public call to all EU representatives currently featuring on the conference programme. We hope to also be able to

² Ong EK, Glantz SA (2000). The Lancet **355** (9211): 1253-1259

³ Hong, M. K., Bero, L. (2002) How the tobacco industry responded to an influential study of the health effects of second hand smoke. BMJ. 325: 1413-1416

⁴ Ulucanlar S, Fooks GJ, Gilmore AB (2016) The Policy Dystopia Model: An Interpretive Analysis of Tobacco Industry Political Activity. PLoS Med 13(9): e1002125. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1002125 available at <http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002125>

⁵ Sema Mandal, Anna B Gilmore, Jeff Collin, Heide Weishaar, Katherine Smith, Martin McKee, Block, amend, delay: tobacco industry efforts to influence the European Union’s Tobacco Products Directive, Smoke Free Partnership, available at http://www.smokefreepartnership.eu/images/Reports-and-Position-Papers/EU_TI_TPD_report_May_2012.pdf

⁶ http://www.who.int/entity/fctc/treaty_instruments/adopted/article_5_3/en/index.html

acknowledge and applaud EU officials who decide to withdraw their implicit endorsement to the tobacco industry's sponsorship of this conference.

We look forward to your response and remain at your disposal for any further information. We would be delighted if you were available to meet with a small delegation of tobacco control advocates in order to discuss our concerns in person in the coming weeks.

Your sincerely,



Florence Berteletti

Director, Smoke Free Partnership

Signatory organisations:

EU: ECL: Association of European Cancer Leagues	Luk Joossens
EU: EHN: European Heart Network	Susanne Logstrup
EU: CPME: Standing Committee of European Doctors	Annabel Seebohm
EU: EPHA: European Public Health Alliance	Nina Renshaw
EU: ECC: European COPD Coalition	Catherine Hartmann
International: Framework Convention Alliance	Francis Thompson
International: Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids	Matthew Meyers
Belgium: Stichting tegen Kanker/Fondation contre le Cancer	Guido Poppelier
Bosnia and Herzegovina: PROI: Progressive Reinforcement of Organizations and Individuals	Uliana Bakh
Bulgaria: Smoke Free Life Coalition Bulgaria	Gergana Gesanova
Czech Republic: Česko Bez Kouře	Jiri Jerabek
Finland: Suomen ASH: Finland's Action on Smoking and Health	Mervi Hara
France: CNCT: Comité National Contre Le Tabagisme	Emmanuelle Beguinot
Germany: ABNR: Aktionsbündnis Nichtraucher	Martina Poetschke-Langer
Germany: Blue 21/ Unfairtobacco	Sonja von Eichborn
Ireland: ASH Ireland	Norma Cronin

Ireland: Irish Cancer Society	Paul Gordon
Italy: SITAB: Società Italiana di Tabaccologia	Mariasofia Cattaruzza
Kosovo: Kosovo Advocacy and Development Center	Arben Lila
Lithuania: NTAKK: Lithuanian National Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition	Nijole G. Midttun
Norway: Norwegian Cancer Society	Maxime Nonguebzanga Compaoré
Poland: MANKO Association	Magdalena Petryniak
Portugal: CATR: Centro de Apoio, Tratamento e Recuperação	Sofia Ravara
Romania: ARPS: Asociatia Romana pentru Promovarea Sanatatii	Bogdan Paunescu
Slovenia: No Excuse Slovenia	Jan Peloza
Slovenia: Slovenian Coalition for Public Health, Environment and Tobacco Control	Mihaela Lovse
Spain: IDEPP: Grupo de I+D en Economía, Políticas Públicas y Salud	Angel Lopez Nicolas
Spain: XQNS!	Joseba Zabala
Sweden: Tobaksfakta - Independent Think Tank	Ewy Thornqvist
Italy/EU: INWAT: International Network of Women against Tobacco	Elizabeth Tamang
UK: Action on Smoking and Health (UK)	Deborah Arnott
UK: Cancer Research UK	Alison Cox
Ukraine: Life: Regional Advocacy Center	Andryi Skipalski

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM 22 MARCH 2017



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Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Programme

08.15 – 08.45	Registration & Welcome Coffee
08.45 – 08.50	Opening remarks - Glenn Vaughan , Chief Executive, British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
08.50 – 09.11	Keynote Address - Manuel Navarrete , Head of the European Counter-Terrorism Centre, Europol
09.11 – 09.12	Minute of silence In memory of the 22 March 2016 Brussels attacks' victims
Session 1: 09.12 – 11.00	<p>What's the damage? The impact of organised crime and terrorism on European business, society and its citizens.</p> <p>Mass counterfeiting affects legitimate business, investment, innovation and jobs. They also put the health and safety of European consumers at risk. The illicit tobacco trade alone costs the EU over 10 billion euros annually in lost tax revenues. No crime is as borderless as cybercrime involving countless victims and suspects all over the world in such activities as child sexual exploitation and payment card fraud. Prevention of terrorism now tops the political agenda – but how much of a concern is it for the world of business?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Parker, Vice-President, British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (moderator) • Steve Bennett, Director of the SAS Global Government Practice

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM

22 MARCH 2017



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Paul Garcia, Director, Customs investigations and intelligence Directorate, France • John Gatt-Rutter, Head of Division, Counterterrorism, European External Action Service • Vincent Sauvalère, Head of Unit, Tobacco and counterfeit goods, OLAF, European Commission • Floriana Sipala, Head of Unit, Organised crime and drugs policy, DG HOME, European Commission <p><u>Topics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the threat of organised crime and terrorism evolving? • How organised is serious organised crime? • What are the links between the worlds of terrorism and organised crime? • Where has serious organised crime and terrorism had the biggest impact on legitimate business? What are the business community's concerns?
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 11:40	Keynote Address - Jan Jambon , Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Security and Home Affairs, Belgium
11:40 – 12:00	Keynote Address
Session 2: 12.00 – 13.10	<p>What are the challenges in the fight against organised crime? What are the priorities for the next EU Policy Cycle 2018-2021?</p> <p>Over the past 10 to 15 years, the EU and Member States have devoted massive resources to action plans, policies, directives, strategies and committees of enquiry devoted to combating serious organised crime. In June, EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers are due to agree the priorities for the next four years. The inclusion of counterfeit, excise fraud and cybercrime are priorities for the world of business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Ilett, Principal Adviser, OLAF, European Commission (moderator) • David Luna, Chair of OECD Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade (TF-CIT), United States Department of State

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON
**FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME
 AND TERRORISM**
22 MARCH 2017



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronald Ridderbeekx, Group Head of Anti-Illicit Trade Engagement, BAT • Julia Viedma, Head of Horizontal Operational Support, Europol <p><u>Topics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where has the EU been successful in the fight against crime and terrorism? • What should be the EU's crime fighting priorities for the next four years? • Where are the gaps in the EU's current policies and action plans? • How coordinated is the response from the EU, its agencies and national authorities? • Meaningful deterrents and sanctions – are Member States and the EU doing enough? • What matters to business and does it have solutions to offer?
13.10 – 13.30	Keynote Address - Stephen Quest , Director General, DG TAXUD, European Commission
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 14.50	Keynote Address
14.50 – 15.00	Keynote Address
Session 3: 15.00 – 16.20	<p>Cutting the supply lines of terrorism and protecting its victims</p> <p>Terrorists need money to carry out disruptive incidents. Where do they get it? The funding fuels recruiting, training and propaganda as well as the purchase of weapons. Since the Paris and Brussels attacks, the EU has acted to disrupt these funding channels. Concern is also growing about the possibility of terrorist attacks with non-conventional, chemical and biological weapons. The private sector has a vested interest and a long history of co-operation with the authorities in fighting organised crime. Is the same true for the fight against terrorism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Parker, Vice-President, British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (moderator) • Dr Steven Chatfield, Senior Advisor, Emergent BioSolutions • Monika Hohlmeier, MEP, Member of LIBE, Germany, European Parliament

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM 22 MARCH 2017



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilles de Kerchove, Counter Terrorism Coordinator, European Council • Prof Peter Neumann, OSCE's Special Representative on Countering Radicalisation and Professor of Security Studies, Kings College London • Manuel Navarrete, Head of the European Counter-Terrorism Centre, Europol <p><u>Topics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who and what are funding international terrorist networks? • Are the existing EU policies on money laundering and disrupting the financing of terror effective enough and what's in the pipeline? • What can law enforcement do to disrupt terrorists' ability to raise, transfer, store and access money? • Could terrorists deploy chemical or biological weapons and are we equipped to deal with the consequences? • Can radicalisation be prevented in a world of mass access to social media? • Can business make a worthwhile contribution?
16.20 – 16.40	Keynote Address
16.40 – 17.00	Closing Address - Wil Van Gemert , Deputy-Director, Operations Department, Europol
17.00 – 18.00	Networking Reception

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EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM 22 MARCH 2017



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CONFERENCE - 22 March

Join us for our third European Conference on Fighting Organised Crime and Terrorism, co-hosted by Europol and the EU Committee.

After the 2013 and 2015 editions, this conference provides a platform for EU policymakers, law enforcement authorities and business leaders to discuss co-operation in combatting serious transnational crime and international terrorism, which pose an increasing threat to EU citizens and business.

The conference will focus on the areas of criminality with a significant impact on European business including counterfeit, piracy and contraband. We will be looking at identifying ways in which companies can support the EU and law enforcement authorities to counter the global criminal networks engaged in such illicit activities.

[Programme below](#)

[Register here](#)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Stephen Quest
Director General, DG TAXUD,
European Commission

Location - Renaissance Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Bruxelles

PRE-CONFERENCE DINNER - 21 March

On the evening of the 21st of March, Europol and the EU Committee are hosting a plenary dinner with Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol.

Participants will include representatives from the European Parliament, European Commission, Council of the EU, businesses and national public sector bodies such as border and customs agencies.

[Click here for more information](#)

Location - Cercle Gaulois, Rue de la Loi 5, 1000 Brussels

REGISTER HERE

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

The event will bring together actors from the law enforcement community, regulators, intelligence professionals and business to discuss ways in which enhanced communication and cooperation with the private sector could be embedded in the EU's strategy for fighting crime and terrorism.

Attending this conference will allow you to:

- Learn more about the latest updates on fighting organised crime and terrorism
- Engage with EU policymakers, law enforcement authorities and business leaders dealing with those issues
- Engage in a policy-shaping public debate

SPEAKERS

European Commission

Visibility partner:



Steve Bennett, Director of the SAS Global Government Practice

Dr Steven Chatfield, Senior Advisor, Emergent BioSolutions

Gilles De Kerchove, Counter Terrorism Coordinator, European Council

Jean-Paul Garcia, Director, Customs investigations and intelligence
Directorate, France

Wil Van Gemert, Deputy Director, Operations Department, Europol

Nick Ilett, Principal Adviser, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), European
Commission

Jan Jambon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Security and Home
Affairs, Belgium

Antonis Kastrissianakis, Director for Security, Safety, Trade Facilitation,
Rules of origin and International cooperation

Sir Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union, European
Commission

David Luna, Chair of the OECD Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade,
United States Department of State

Manuel Navarrete, Head of the European Counter-Terrorism Centre,
Europol

Peter Neumann, King's College London

Ronald Ridderbeekx, Group Head of Anti-Illicit Trade Engagement, BAT

John-Gatt Rutter, Head of Division, Counter-terrorism, European External
Action Service

Vincent Sauvalère, Head of Unit, Tobacco and Counterfeit Goods,
European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), European Commission

Floriana Sipala, Head of Unit Organised Crime and Drugs Policy, DG
HOME, European Commission

Julia Viedma, Head of Horizontal Operational Support, Europol

PROGRAMME

[Click here to access the full programme](#)

Session 1: Who is winning the EU's Fight against Crime and Terrorism?

- How effective are the EU's current crime fighting priorities?
- What are the lessons learned from the policy cycle so far?
- Which criminal areas are the most popular?
- Where have the successes been?
- How has business helped?
- How co-ordinated is the response from EU and national authorities and agencies?

Session 2: What are the challenges in the fight against organised crime?

- How and when will the next set of EU crime fighting priorities be set?
- What are the business community's concerns?
- What areas should the next set of priorities focus on?
- How will the European Public Prosecutor's Office play a role?
- Meaningful deterrents and sanctions – do they matter? Are Member States doing enough?
- To what extent is organised crime linked with terrorism?

Session 3: Cutting the supply lines of terrorism and protecting its victims

- Are the existing EU approaches to money laundering and disrupting the financing of terror effective enough?
- What can law enforcement do to disrupt the terrorists' ability to raise, transfer, store

and access money? Which private sector industry is best equipped to help?

- Does business have a role to play in preventing radicalisation – e.g. preventing on-line propaganda?

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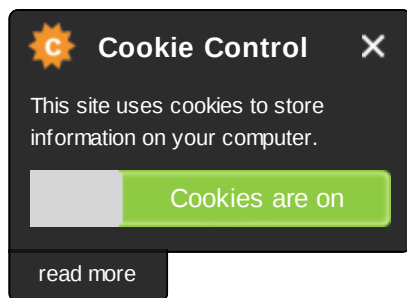
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British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium: Boulevard Bischoffsheim 11, 1000 Brussels

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- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)

[log in](#)

[page](#) [discussion](#) [view source](#) [history](#)

Kangaroo Group

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Contents

- [1 Background](#)
- [2 Criticisms](#)
- [3 Tobacco Links](#)
- [4 notes](#)

Background

Set up in 1979, the [Kangaroo Group](#) promotes free trade across the European Union and brings together an impressive roster of politicians, academics and business people.^[1]

In 1989 its then director [Pamela Entwistle](#), in a letter to [British American Tobacco](#) asking for support described its operations as:

...works both in the limelight and also behind the scenes; the limelight by publishing a bi-monthly newspaper Kangaroo News, and behind the scenes discussing Internal Market affairs with Government officials and National ministers, with the European Commission and in the Parliament. It has the one aim to function as a multi-party, multi-national platform to mobilise public and specialist opinion behind the completion of the Internal Market.^[2]

Corporate membership at that time cost £3,000 a year.^[3]

It continues to promote business interests to MEPs and EU civil servants through a mixture of corporate gatherings and information campaigns.^[4]

Criticisms

Dr Monica Horten, a journalist and expert on European internet and copyright policy, has described the Kangaroo Group as a "one of a number of groups which provide extra-curricula contact between corporate industry lobbyists and MEPs".^[5]

A letter sent in 2011 from the [Corporate Europe Observatory](#) questioned the Kangaroo Group's use of EU Parliament facilities on behalf of corporate benefactors.^[6]

Tobacco Links

Its tobacco industry members are listed as [Barry Ronan](#) from [BAT](#), [Mario Muller](#) from the [Confederation of European Community Cigarette Manufacturers](#), [Istvan Komoroczki](#) from [Imperial Tobacco](#), [Kristof Doms](#) from [Philip Morris](#) and [Paolo Bochicchio](#) from [JT International](#).^[7]

One area the Kangaroo Group looks at is smuggling, contraband and general threats to corporate property rights. As part of this it hosted a forum in 2011 on how to tackle tobacco smuggling.^[8] The forum promoted a booklet *The Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and How to Tackle it*^[9] published by the [International Tax and Investment Center](#) (ITIC).^{[10][9]} It was written by Elizabeth Allen who spent 35 years with HM Revenue and Customs, mainly on tobacco issues.^[9]

notes

1. ↑ Kangaroo Group, [Goals](#), Kangaroo Group website, Accessed December 2011
2. ↑ BAT, [Letter from Pamela Entwistle to PM Bingham](#), 27 October 1989
3. ↑ BAT, [Corporate Membership Scheme of the Kangaroo Group](#), 27 October 1989
4. ↑ Kangaroo Group, [Events](#), Kangaroo Group website, Accessed December 2011
5. ↑ iptegrity.com, [EU Parliament's Kangaroo Group hops onto ACTA](#), iptegrity.com, 10 October 2011
6. ↑ Corporate Europe, [Letter from Olivier Hoedeman to College of Quaestors](#), 21 September 2011
7. ↑ Kangaroo Group, [Members](#), Kangaroo Group website, Accessed December 2011
8. ↑ Kangaroo Group, [The Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and How to Tackle it](#), 26 May 2011
9. ↑ [9.0 9.1 9.2](#) ITIC, [The Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and How to Tackle it](#), 19 April 2011
10. ↑ The ITIC describes itself as:

a non-profit research and education foundation. ITIC serves as a clearing house for information on best practices in taxation and investment policy, and as a training center to transfer such know how to improve the investment climates of transition and developing countries, thereby spurring formation and development of business and economic prosperity.

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