



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
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Date: 21 December 2017

Dr David Sergeenko
Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
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Our reference:	KMA_yvk	Your reference:
Notre référence:		Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:		Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:		На Ваш номер:

Dear Sir,

I should like to bring to your attention an urgent public health issue with possible negative implications for public health, both in your country and globally.

In September this year, the tobacco company Philip Morris International announced its support for the establishment of a new entity, the "Foundation for a Smoke-Free World", pledging a contribution of US\$ 80 million annually over the next 12 years.

In its resolution 66/2 of 19 September 2011, the United Nations General Assembly recognized a fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health. WHO Member States have clearly stated that WHO does not engage with the tobacco industry or with non-State actors that work to further the interests of the tobacco industry.

Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control obliges Parties to act to protect public health policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. Guidelines for the implementation of this article state that governments should limit interactions with the tobacco industry and avoid partnerships with it, and that governments should not accept financial or any other contributions from the tobacco industry or those working to further its interests, including this Foundation.

For the reasons stated above, the WHO Regional Office for Europe will not enter into any partnership with the Foundation. I would urge governments not to enter into partnerships with the Foundation or apply for or accept funding from this source. The entire public health community in Europe and globally should follow this lead. This initiative, funded by the tobacco industry, could damage tobacco control efforts and jeopardize the successful implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the WHO European Region.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe will continue to support your work on the full implementation of the Framework Convention in respect of all tobacco products. This treaty remains the most effective remedy for the tobacco epidemic globally.

Yours very truly,

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
Regional Director

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