

Reaccreditation report of NGO observers to COP10

Survey response 1

A. Contact details

A1. Name of organization
Smoke Free Partnership
A6. Website of organization
https://www.smokefreepartnership.eu/

B. General information

B1. Please indicate if your organization would like to retain its status as observer to the Conference of the Parties
Yes
B2. Does your organization's mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control?
Yes
B3. If yes, please specify:
SFP's mission is the effective implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). To this end, the SFP works with decision makers to ensure that tobacco control receives adequate political attention at EU level and to promote tobacco control information and policy research at EU and national level, in collaboration with other EU health organizations and tobacco control networks. It also aims to ensure FCTC implementation globally, and is working to release EU funding for tobacco control to counter poverty in developing countries.
B4. Does your organization have regional branch(es) to enhance activities in different regions or groups of countries?
Yes
B5. If yes, please provide details
<p>The SFP Coalition is a network comprising of independent EU and national advocacy organisations with technical expertise in tobacco control policy. Led by SFP, Coalition partners work together to promote and support smoking prevention through the development of advocacy towards EU tobacco control policies through the development and implementation of the FCTC, its protocols and guidelines.</p> <p>The main priority of the SFP Coalition is to promote forward-looking and evidence-based tobacco control legislation in order to implement the FCTC in specific and cross-cutting policy areas, with an overarching goal of improving health and reducing health inequalities among EU citizens.</p> <p>The SFP Coalition currently has 54 partners across Europe including SFP Main partners, Associate partners and Advocacy partners. The Coalition communicates regularly and meets annually to discuss and agree advocacy priorities at EU and national level on specific areas.</p> <p>SFP Coalition partners recognise the fundamental importance of strengthening cooperation on tobacco control policy in the EU through better communication of our actions and capacity-building regarding specific areas of the FCTC at European and national level.</p>
B6. Does your organization regularly convene meetings or conferences for its membership?
Yes
B7. If yes, is tobacco control covered in these meetings?
Yes

B8. If yes, please provide details

SFP organizes an annual Coalition meeting with its members and around four Coalition calls throughout the year. During these meetings, SFP updates partners on policy files and priorities and coalition partners share national priorities and issues. SFP's coalition partners are non-profit organizations working mostly on tobacco control at national level or cancer prevention at EU and national level. During these meetings, SFP updates partners on the implementation of tobacco control at EU level and coalition partners share best practices and update SFP on the implementation of EU tobacco control policies at national level.

C. Participation in WHO FCTC meetings and contributions to other tobacco control related events

C1. Please indicate the meetings organized by the Convention Secretariat at which your organization was represented (sessions of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of intersessional groups, NGO meetings, etc.)

22 September 2021 FCA and FCTC Secretariat: discussion on COP9/MOP2 preparations

20 October 2021 Pre-meeting for the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (COP9)

2 November 2021 FCA & FCTC Secretariat, discussion on COP9/MOP2 preparations

8-13 November 2021 COP9 to the FCTC, online conference organised by the WHO FCTC Secretariat

15-18 November 2021 MOP2 to the FCTC, online conference organised by the WHO FCTC Secretariat

C2. Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control attended by your organization

29 June 2021 Policy Dialogue, Europe's path to the Tobacco Products Directive 3.0, event coorganised by MAC, SFP, ECL

6 July 2021 Tobacco Control and Cancer Series: Building Capacity for Policy Change, online conference, organised by UICC

13 July EU4Health 2021 work programme Info Session, online session organised by European Commission

27 July 2021 Launch of the WHO report on the Global Tobacco Epidemics, 2021, by WHO, online

1 September 2021 FCA advocacy task force

2 + 16 September 2021 FCA task force on investment funds

8 + 21 September - 12 October 2021 FCA task force on budgets and work plans

14 + 28 September - 12 October 2021 FCS task force on the Protocol

17 September 2021 FCA virtual advocacy taskforce

22 September 2021 FCA and FCTC Secretariat: discussion on COP9/MOP2 preparations

30 September 2021 SFP Coalition call

13-14 October 2021 Pre-meeting for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (MOP2), organised by WHO Europe

14-15 October 2021 ETI Workshop - Reshaping Lobbying (advocacy), online

15 October 2021 FCA Working group on strategic communications

18 October 2021 Leadership Summit

19 October 2021 OLAF and SFP meeting on MOP2, organised by SFP

20 October 2021 Pre-meeting for the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (COP9)

22 October 2021 FCA Working group on strategic communications

28 October EU4Health 2021 work programme Information Session second wave of calls for action grants, online session organised by the European Commission

29 October 2021 Tobacco control- a critical piece of the global health puzzle, CRUK

1 November 2021 COP briefing FCA

2 November 2021 FCA & FCTC Secretariat, discussion on COP9/MOP2 preparations

2 November 2021 FCA Bulletin meeting

3 November 2021 MOP briefing FCA

4 November Webinar on Illicit tobacco trade- a barrier to achieving tobacco control, organised by CRUK

8-13 November 2021 COP9 to the FCTC, online conference organised by the WHO FCTC Secretariat

15-18 November 2021 MOP2 to the FCTC, online conference organised by the WHO FCTC Secretariat

24 November 2021 The EU Mission on Cancer and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, online

15-16 December 2021 German conference for tobacco control, online conference organised by the DKFZ (German Cancer Research Center), presentations by Caren Willig and Irina Kubinski

D. Your organization's activities to support implementation of the WHO FCTC

D1. Article 5 (General obligations)?

Yes

D2. If yes, please provide details

On article 5.3 SFP meets on a regular basis with EU policy makers to present their obligations under WHO FCTC in terms of transparency. SFP provides support to the Coalition Partners on their national campaigns to strengthen the implementation of Article 5.3. Every year (now every two years) SFP develops a declared tobacco industry interference index by analyzing the EU transparency register. Taking into consideration that transparency is at the top of EU agenda following the 2022 Qatargate scandal, SFP is working with partners on ensuring that transparency is enhanced also on tobacco control. Finally, SFP denounces political events funded by the tobacco industry and urges policy-makers to not take part in them. The European Commission's Directorates working on taxes and on health apply article 5.3 in their meeting by sharing minutes. SFP is advocating for this application to be implemented across the whole Commission.

D3. Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco)?

Yes

D4. If yes, please provide details

SFP is currently working on the revision of the EU Tobacco Taxation Directive which its release is planned for 2023. SFP is conducting regular meetings with EU policy makers and national tax attaches. SFP published a position paper on tobacco taxes in 2021 and an advocacy toolkit on the EU Tobacco Tax Directive in 2022 which was disseminated to coalition partners. SFP is also currently working with its tax experts to develop a model which would show revenues, variation in smoking prevalence, and tobacco industry's profits in different scenarios of tax increase. This model will be used as an advocacy tool to use with EU policy makers to stress the urge to increase taxes.

D5. Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?

Yes

D6. If yes, please provide details

SFP regularly updates its smoke free map. The map analyses the smoke-free legislations and compliance in 42 countries. SFP is also closely monitoring the process and responding to consultations from the European Commission on the revision of the 2009 Recommendation on Smoke Free environments.

D7. Article 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco product) and/or Article 10 (Regulation of tobacco product disclosures)?

Yes

D8. If yes, please provide details

In 2021, the European Commission presented the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan which aims to create a "Tobacco Free Generation" where less than 5% of the population uses tobacco by 2040. SFP, together with its coalition partners, is supporting the European Commission in the implementation of this program. In this framework, the European Commission is currently working on the revision of the Legislative Framework on Tobacco Control. In June 2022, SFP responded to the European Commission's call for evidence and is currently working on another public consultation. The EU Legislative Framework comprises of the Tobacco Products Directive and the Tobacco Advertising Directive. In November 2021, SFP published a position paper on the evaluation and review of the EU Tobacco Products Directive.

D9. Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?

Yes

D10. If yes, please provide details

In November 2022, the EU Commission Delegated Directive banning flavors on heated tobacco products and imposing mandatory labelling requirements. SFP is closely following the implementation at national level of labelling requirements through its coalition partners.

D11. Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)?

Yes

D12. If yes, please provide details
SFP raises awareness of WHO FCTC implementation and call for action. Luk Joossens, SFP senior advisor; SFP Tobacco Control Unit, WHO Collaborating Centre for Tobacco Control, Institut Català d'Oncologia (ICO); Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Bellvitge (IDIBELL); Universitat de Barcelona; CIBER of Respiratory Diseases (CIBERES); L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain. This report describes the results of a survey of tobacco control activity in 37 European countries in 2021, using the Tobacco Control Scale (TCS), first described by Luk Joossens and Martin Raw in the 2006 paper The Tobacco Control Scale: a new scale to measure country activity. The data used for the 2021 survey refers to legislation in force on the 1 January 2022, to 2020 data on prices of tobacco products, and to the tobacco control budget in 2020. Any legislation, price increases, or funding introduced or enforced after those dates are not included. The TCS quantifies the implementation of tobacco control policies at country level, and is based on six policies described by the World Bank, as well as the recommendations from the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control, according to which comprehensive tobacco control programmes should be prioritized.
D13. Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship)?
Yes
D14. If yes, please provide details
In 2021, the European Commission presented the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan which aims to create a "Tobacco Free Generation" where less than 5% of the population uses tobacco by 2040. SFP, together with its coalition partners, is supporting the European Commission in the implementation of this program. In this framework, the European Commission is currently working on the revision of the Legislative Framework on Tobacco Control. In June 2022, SFP responded to the European Commission's call for evidence and is currently working on another public consultation. The EU Legislative Framework comprises of the Tobacco Products Directive and the Tobacco Advertising Directive.
D15. Article 14 (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)
No
D16. If yes, please provide details
D17. Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?
Yes
D18. If yes, please provide details
SFP is working with the European Commission on illicit trade in tobacco products. SFP in 2022 published a position on the tracking and tracing system within the context of the review of the Legislative Framework on Tobacco Control. In November 2022, SFP responded to a consultation on tobacco product traceability. SFP is an observer to MOP and participated in MOP2 and in the preparatory meetings for MOP 3 (detailed report was submitted).
D19. Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?
No
D20. If yes, please provide details
D21. Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) and/or Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)?
Yes

D22. If yes, please provide details
The Smoke Free Partnership (SFP) was actively engaged in the development and implementation of the EU Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive, SFP is currently engaged in the revision of the application of the Polluter Pays Principle in the EU, to try and ensure that the tobacco industry's specificities are taken into account, notably when it comes to EPR. We are notably committed to ensuring the industry's accountability and avoiding that EU legislation leads to greenwashing, notably through our engagement as experts in the current elaboration of tobacco sectorial standards for the reporting on non-financial activities to companies listed on EU regulated markets. SFP has increasingly been involved in sustainability issues. In 2022, SFP provided input on the revision of the EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, and contributed together with the Comité National Contre le Tabagisme (CNCT) to EU Polluter Pays Principle fitness check of its application to the environment. We also work on legislative work around the mitigation and prevention of tobacco products waste, and support our national coalition partners in the national implementation of tobacco-related environmental legislative EU pieces. SFP aims to help the EU successfully deliver on its EU's circular economy package and ambition to achieve a green transition, which to happen, needs the tobacco industry's specificities to be taken into account. In 2022 when GGTC initiated the work around the preparation of a proposed UN international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, SFP has been an active member of the Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (STPA) and greatly contributed to relay its campaign messages at EU level. In 2023, SFP submitted input to the UNEP in preparation for the next Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) on the UN Plastic Treaty. All the points we shared aligned with the STPA recommendations. We have been regularly updating coalition partners about negotiations and next steps. SFP is regularly providing environmental expert's insights to other national and international organizations as well as supporting coalition partners to step up the implementation of 5.3 at national level and their environmental work. Furthermore, we briefed Surfrider Foundation Europe on the 5.3 legal provisions while working with them on a recommendation for the Commission to issue guidelines on 5.3 for Member States around the implementation of the SUP Directive.
D23. Article 19 (Liability)?
Yes
D24. If yes, please provide details
In 2020 on 29 July, SFP attended the teleconference on Tobacco Industry Accountability and Liability as a COVID-19 Response, organised by the WHO FCTC Secretariat.
D25. Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information)?
Yes
D26. If yes, please provide details
In 2021, SFP published its Spotlight on SFP website. The SFP Spotlight on Article 20 of the WHO FCTC focuses on the overall importance of tobacco control research for FCTC implementation and necessary steps on including tobacco control in the European research field. The Spotlight also examines Horizon Europe due to the nature of tobacco as a risk factor that must be taken into consideration as part of EU research on policy development and implementation.
D27. Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise)?
Yes
D28. If yes, please provide details
SFP on an annual basis conducts capacity building trainings, workshops for the Coalition partners. We regularly publish position papers, spotlights, briefs, communication materials, social media posts to support evidence based tobacco control policies both at EU and national level.

E. Other relevant activities to support the work of the WHO FCTC

E1. Please provide any other relevant information
In light of COP9, SFP also became involved in communicating the value of tobacco control to Parties to the FCTCs, especially in relation to the investment fund for FCTC implementation. Our work on this issue was coordinated with the Framework Convention Alliance. We worked with Coalition members to increase overall understanding of such funds. During COP9 and MOP2, the parties agreed on the creation of an investment fund for FCTC/ Protocol implementation. In 2020 SFP took part in the global #COP9Week social media campaign organised by FCA and liaised with the Dutch Ministry of Health to organise an editorial by the State Secretary in charge of tobacco control.
E2. Please attach any other relevant file(s)
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F. Declarations

F1. Please confirm that your organization does not receive, has not received and will not receive in the future, either directly or indirectly, any financial or other contributions or assistance from the tobacco industry or its affiliates. Please also confirm that neither your members nor your partners are affiliated directly or indirectly with the tobacco industry or its affiliates or those furthering the interests of the tobacco industry.

Yes, I can confirm

F2. By electronic signature I confirm that the above information is accurate and completed to the best of our abilities.

Lilia Olefir, Director, Smoke Free Partnership 27 February 2023

F3. Please confirm that the activities of your organization are in conformity with the 17th and 18th preambular paragraphs and Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

Yes, I confirm