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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of EPSCO (Health) of 2 December 2025:
WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC): Eleventh
Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) (Geneva, 17-22
November 2025)
- Information from the Presidency and the Commission

The 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 17 to 22 November 2025.

COP11 was attended by a record number of participants, and more than 1,600 delegates had signed up for the conference. Participants included delegates representing the Parties, several non- Party States, and a large number of NGOs and youth voices. The EU together with the 27 Member States is a full Party to the FCTC and its Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. The COP11 was followed by the fourth Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) to the Convention's Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (24-26 November 2025).

COP11 achieved several important outcomes, notably by advancing the work to address the **environmental impact** of tobacco and nicotine products, strengthen tobacco industry **liability** and **forward-looking tobacco control measures**, increase **sustainable resources for tobacco control**, advocate for **smoke and aerosol-free environments** in the UN, as well as overall link tobacco control to the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

At COP11, the EU played a vital role and made a clear imprint on a number of important COP11 discussions and decisions, in particular the successful adoption of decisions related to environmental harm caused by tobacco and nicotine products and related electronic devices, tobacco industry liability, and mobilisation of sustainable resources for tobacco control.

An **EU statement** was delivered during the **general debate**, highlighting the constantly evolving market with new tobacco and nicotine products and the ongoing evaluation of the EU tobacco control legislation to better protect children and young people from these products. The visibility of the EU was also underlined by the election of an EU vice-chair of Committee B, and the election of an EU representative (Spain) as a member and the first vice-president of the COP Bureau representing the WHO European Region (EURO).

The main COP11 discussions and outcomes were the following:

On treaty instruments and technical matters

1. The comprehensive implementation of **Article 18 of the WHO FCTC on protection of the environment and the health of persons** was further advanced, based on a strong EU impact on the draft decision. The adopted decision reiterates the extensive environmental harms caused by the entire lifecycle of tobacco and nicotine products and related electronic devices and invites the Parties to counter greenwashing practices that portray the tobacco industry as socially responsible for the environment, and to consider comprehensive regulatory options regarding tobacco and nicotine products and their related external components. A reference to the necessary protection of environmental policies from the tobacco industry interference, including in implementation of extended producer responsibility systems, has been also reaffirmed, in line with the EU position.
2. The COP for the first time adopted a decision **on mobilisation by Parties of sustainable resources for tobacco control**, in line with amendments proposed by the EU. It reaffirms that domestic resource mobilisation is a core strategy for achieving long-term, sustainable and predictable funding for national tobacco control programmes, and urges Parties to consider strengthening the implementation of **Article 6 of the FCTC** by adopting and adjusting effective tobacco tax policies.

3. The report of the Expert Group on **liability** was addressed by the decision on the implementation of **Article 19 of the FCTC**, inviting Parties to strengthen their implementation of this Article, by considering recommendations and options provided in the Expert Group report. The decision also reaffirms that issues relating to liability are an important part of comprehensive tobacco control.
4. The COP also adopted a decision on **forward-looking tobacco control measures**, advancing the implementation of **Article 2.1 of the FCTC**, that invites the Parties to note voluntary measures described by the Expert Group, which expand or intensify approaches to tobacco control, and consider these measures beyond those required by the Convention.
5. Agenda items on **regulation of contents and disclosure of tobacco products (Articles 9 and 10 of the WHO FCTC)** and on **implementation of measures to prevent and reduce tobacco consumption, nicotine addiction and exposure to tobacco smoke**, and the protection of such measures from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in light of the tobacco industry's narrative on "harm reduction" (**Articles 5.2(b) and 5.3 of the WHO FCTC**) were not completed and will be thus carried over to COP12.

On reporting, implementation assistance, and international cooperation

1. On the proposal of the FCTC Secretariat, the COP noted the report on the **Voluntary Implementation Peer Review and Support Mechanism** in light of insufficient expressions of interest from Parties for the mechanism to become operational.

On budgetary and institutional matters

1. The COP adopted a decision related to **smoke- and aerosol-free United Nations**, urging parties to advocate for the implementation of a complete ban on the use and sales of tobacco products, including heated tobacco products, and of novel and emerging nicotine products such as Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems/Electronic Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems and other nicotine products (including nicotine pouches and disposable Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) at all United Nations premises.

2. The COP noted the **performance and progress reports** prepared by the Secretariat and agreed on the **proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2026-2027**.
3. An agreement was reached on extra measures for those Parties in **arrears with the payment of Assessed Contributions**. Such a Party is not entitled to become a member of the Bureau of the COP or to nominate a member to it and cannot chair a subsidiary body or working group.
4. The COP further decided to maintain the **observer status of the 29 accredited NGOs** to the COP.
5. The COP also noted the report submitted by the Director-General of **WHO on resolutions and decisions** relevant to the implementation of the WHO FCTC.

An **EU statement** was delivered in the **final plenary session** of the COP underlining that novel and emerging tobacco and nicotine products harm health, in particular of children and young people, as well as the environment. The statement also highlighted the importance of protecting tobacco control policies from the influence of the tobacco industry, in line with Article 5.3 of the FCTC, and the importance of an ambitious agenda for COP12.

On the **date and place of the 12th Conference of the Parties (2027)**, COP11 decided for it to be held in Yerevan, Armenia, with dates to be confirmed after agreement between the host country and the Bureau.
