



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public Health, Cancer and Health security  
**Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**

SANTE.B.4/MM/ sante.b.4(2024)4269726

nathalie@tobacco-europe.eu

Dear Ms Darge,

On behalf of Tobacco Europe AISBL, you sent a complaint to the European Ombudsman of 13 March 2024. The European Ombudsman has asked us to fully address your specific concerns in relation to the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP). In your complaint, you noted that you are “still wondering how an NGO, with a clear agenda and concrete campaigning to influence EU tobacco control legislation, was nominated to partake in such consortium”.

As noted in our letter of 30 November 2023 (Ares(2023)8191759), the role of ENSP in the evaluation procedure, as one member of the contractual consortium, would be facilitating the necessary contacts with experts, when relevant, for the different specific contracts and that ENSP, as part of a joint tender, signed a Declaration on honour and an additional absence of conflict of interest in the field of tobacco.

ENSP declared not being in a situation of conflict of interest, as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest, in particular with regards to the provisions of Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. These documents were fully assessed during the evaluation of the tenders before awarding the contract and no conflict of interest was identified concerning ENSP’s role in the contract execution. As a conclusion, ENSP was allowed to participate because they fulfil the conditions of the declaration of honour.

ENSP also committed to take all the necessary measures to prevent any situation of conflict of interest, to notify of any situation that could constitute a conflict of interest, and to take immediate action to rectify the situation.

Yours faithfully,

Marianne Takki  
Deputy Head of Unit

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