



La Vice-Première Ministre et  
Ministre des Affaires sociales  
et de la Santé publique



MINISTRY  
OF HEALTH



MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH  
Finland



Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Santé



An Roinn Sláinte  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de la Santé



Ministry for Health, the Elderly  
and Community Care



GOVERNO DE  
PORTUGAL

MINISTRY FOR HEALTH



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



**Mr John DALLI**  
**European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy**  
**European Commission**  
**B - 1049 Brussels**

1 August 2012

Dear Commissioner,

Tobacco remains the single largest cause of avoidable illness in the European Union causing the deaths of an estimated 650,000 EU citizens every year and leading to long term debilitating diseases for many others. As Ministers for Health we are particularly concerned about the number of children and young people who continue to be attracted to tobacco products and become addicted with lifelong consequences for their health and wellbeing.

In addition to the human cost of this level of preventable illness and death from tobacco use there is a major negative economic cost. Treating patients with tobacco related illnesses is a massive but avoidable cost to the health budget. In addition to the direct cost to health budgets tobacco use has wider implications for the economy: absenteeism from the workplace, loss in productivity and early retirement.

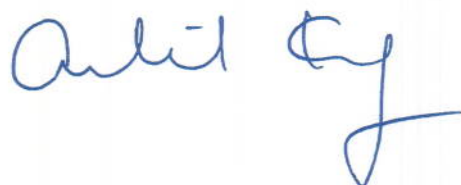
We are aware of the significant work undertaken in recent years by DG SANCO on the revision of the Tobacco Products Directive 2001/37/EC. We understand that the public consultation process resulted in an unprecedented number of responses and the examination and analysis of these submissions has slowed progress on this measure. Given our particular interest in making tobacco products less attractive to children and young people and the negative consequences of tobacco from both a public health and economic point of view we are anxious to continue to make progress on this important issue. We therefore look forward to the Commission adopting its proposal for a revision of the Tobacco Products Directive as soon as possible and would hope that this can be done by the end of this year at the latest.

We acknowledge the personal commitment you have shown to addressing this very important issue and you can be assured of our continued cooperation and support in progressing new legislation in this area.

Best regards,

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Belgium – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health, Ms Laurette Onkelinx

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Astrid Krag' in a cursive style.

Denmark – Minister for Health, Ms Astrid Krag

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Guzenina-Richardson' in a cursive style.

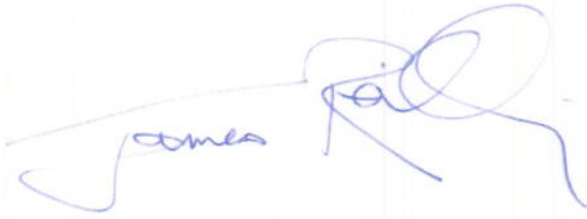
Finland - Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms Maria Guzenina-Richardson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marisol Touraine' in a cursive style.  

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**Marisol TOURAINE**

France – Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Santé



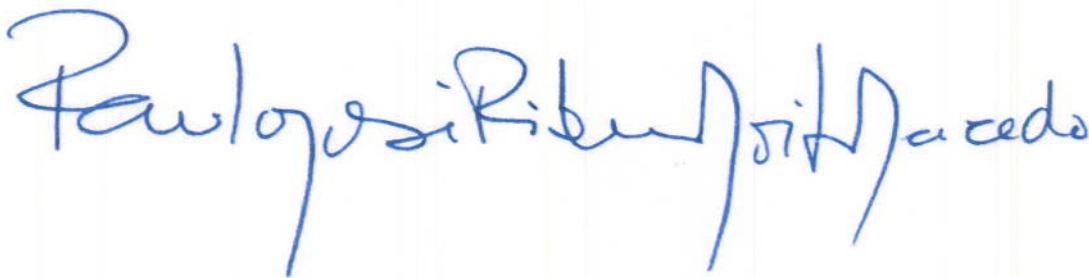
Ireland – Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly



Luxembourg - Ministre de la Santé et Ministre de la Sécurité sociale, Mr Mars Di Bartolomeo



Malta – Minister for Health, the Elderly and Community Care, Dr Joseph **Cassar**



Portugal – Minister for Health, Mr Paulo Macedo

  
Tomaž Gantar  
Minister of Health  
of the Republic of Slovenia





United Kingdom – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health, Ms Anne Milton

**CC Mr Johannes Laitenberger Chef de Cabinet to the Président de la Commission**