To

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
T. F. I.

20 Avenue Appia
CH – 1211 GENEVA
SWITZERLAND

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Identification:

The Austrian Council on Smoking and Health is a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) with direction against diseases caused by smoking and special interest in prevention and therapeutic problems. This Council is a initiative with the Austrian Society for Lung Diseases and Tuberculosis, the Institute of Environmental Health at the University of Vienna, the Institute of Social Medicine at the University of Vienna, the Austrian Cancer-League and the Austrian Medical Society. We are also connected to the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP).

Our organisation is a nonprofit organisation with support by phar-maceutical companies, as Eli Lilly Austria, Glaxo Wellcome, Novartis Gebro, and Pharmacia & Upjohn, as well as by "The Erste Bank", a financial institu-tion.

Interest in Framework Convention:

The interest of our Council is to share the national problems of diseases from active and passive smoking with those of other countries and to be involved in international actions for effective tobacco control. Only national actions would have minimal effects. There is need for international action and cooperation.

Statement:

Smoking is a choice for addiction and addiction related diseases as well as environmental ones. Tobacco ist sold in an unique optimal way to the public by the industry. The tobacco industry uses national and international connections for promoting, advertising and selling. Also smuggling is a problem for Austria neighboring 6 Non-EU-countries. All ways, also nearly incredible and unthinkable ways, are used to bring the product to the consumer and with this not only pleasure in the meaning of many users, but also premature deaths, diseases and environmental pollution. The main targets of the tobacco industry are young people, women and the developing countries. But in the developed countries there is also a need for more information, prevention and treatment. The effectiveness of the industries work ist demonstrated by their financial reports.
Activity:

The main activities of the Austrian Council on Smoking and Health is to maintain attention in doctors and the public, especially also politicians, for the problems and importance of tobacco control. Members of the Council are working on education of doctors in smoking cessation. There are also workshops in this topic. Also work is done in prevention with activities in children.

Need for international regulation:

The interests of the tobacco industry are internationally coordinated, e.g. as only one example advertising through international sport events in formula one racing. Therefore it is essential to coordinate the activity against the choice of smoking and the activities in prevention also in an international way, but with respect of national individuality. It is also necessary to exchange the experience, especially if they are helpful in attaining the target (by example the effect of advertising ban in Norway or the success of reducing indoor smoking in California).

We need WHO support against new tendencies to sacrifice health interests for shortsighted economic interests focusing on reduction of trade barriers and unwilling to develop sustainable alternatives for tobacco growing.

Also essential for the work in tobacco control is the international statement of underlining the nicotine addiction as disease, as documented also in the ICD-10, and to underline the need for medical committment in treatment as well as in prevention. And the health services has to offer it to the public.