VENEZUELA
2021
TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE INDEX
Introduction

The Venezuelan Government has a set of general rules that aim to guarantee the health of the population and other specific rules that regulate tobacco products (use, consumption, manufacture, marketing, advertising, promotion, sponsorship, among others), namely:

- Article 83 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and articles 65, 66 and 67 of the Organic Health Law promote, protect and guarantee health in our country.\(^1\)
- The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC),\(^2\) which is the first public health treaty that was unanimously approved by the National Assembly of Venezuela in 2005 and ratified by the President of the Republic of Venezuela in 2007.
- The Organic Law on Drugs\(^3\)
- Resolution 109 of the Ministry of People's Power for Health establishing the regulation and control of cigarettes and other tobacco products intended for human consumption\(^4\)
- Resolution No. 030, which issues the Resolution on Environments Free of Tobacco Smoke\(^5\)
- Resolution No. 157, which extends for a period of thirty (30) days, the period established in Article 9 of Resolution Number 004, dated January 9, 2014, published in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela number 40,330, which regulates the packaging and packets of cigarettes\(^6\)
- Resolution No. 071, which establishes the Guidelines for the Total Prohibition of Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship and Regulation of the Sale of Tobacco Products in the National Territory of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela\(^7\)

The abovementioned regulations are in line with the provisions of the WHO FCTC. It could be ascertained that the Venezuelan government, in the development of its public health policies, is responding positively by recognizing the irreconcilable differences between tobacco products and the health of the collective.

Moreover, Venezuela has been regulating many of its provisions, making it, for example, worthy of the "World No Tobacco Day" award granted in 2020 by the WHO, especially for the approval of the Resolution of the Ministry of People's Power for Health establishing the Guidelines for the Total Prohibition of Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship and Regulation of the sale of Tobacco products in the national territory, published in official gazette No. 41,684, dated July 31, 2019.

The WHO FCTC was developed with the aim of reducing tobacco use, an epidemic that causes irreparable damage to the health of the world's population. One of the provisions of

\(^1\) Official Gazette No. 5,908 of 19 February 2009
\(^2\) Official Gazette No. 38,304 dated 1 November 2005
\(^3\) Official Gazette No. 39,546 November 5, 2010
\(^4\) Official Gazette No. 36,976 date 20 June 2000
\(^5\) Official Gazette No. 39,627 date March 2, 2011
\(^6\) Official Gazette No. 40,382 dated 28 March 2014
\(^7\) Official Gazette No. 41.6 dated 84 July 31 2019
the WHO FCTC is its article 5, section 3, which provides that:⁸ "... In establishing and implementing their public health policies relating to tobacco control, the Parties shall act in a manner that protects such policies against the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry, in accordance with national legislation...." The recommendations⁹ for the implementation of the said article are as follows:

- **Raise awareness of the addictive and harmful nature of tobacco products and the interference of the tobacco industry in the tobacco control policies of the Parties;**
- **Establish measures to limit interactions with the tobacco industry and ensure the transparency of those that occur;**
- **Reject alliances and agreements that are not binding or binding on the tobacco industry;**
- **Avoid conflicts of interest for civil servants and public employees;**
- **Require that the information provided by the tobacco industry be transparent and accurate;**
- **Denormalise and as far as possible regulate activities which the tobacco industry describes as 'socially responsible', including activities described as 'institutional social responsibility', but not limited to these;**
- **Not granting preferential treatment to the tobacco industry;**
- **Treat the state-owned tobacco industry in the same way as any other tobacco industry.**

Despite the promulgation of relevant regulations on tobacco control, the government still has shortcomings in implementing them. There is little awareness and promotion of these laws in the responsible offices and agencies. When the pandemic hit, there have been restrictions on movement prohibiting the strict inspection and monitoring of tobacco industry activities. The tobacco industry has used this event to not comply with the existing rules on tobacco control especially in advertising, promotion and sponsorship of their products in social media networks. There is also little information on the activity of the tobacco industry both on the pages of official bodies and on their own pages, indicating lack of transparency and accountability.

In 2020, Venezuela lost its productive capacity and was forced to open its market to foreign products, reducing its tariffs and indirectly generating an economy of "still lifes" or imported products that unfortunately because of opacity in official sources.

In our country there are two cigarette companies, namely: CA Cigarrera Bigott Sucs, the local subsidiary of British American Tobacco (BAT), and C.A Tabacalera Nacional, the local subsidiary of Philip Morris International (PMI). The former is the largest tobacco company that controls cigarette market. There are approximately 45,000 and 50,000 points of sale of cigarettes in establishments such as convenience stores, supermarkets and cafes.¹⁰ In addition to this, Venezuela also has a large number of chimó (smokeless tobacco preparation) and tobacco companies (habanos) that exist on social networks.¹¹

This is Venezuela’s first report on Tobacco Industry Interference Index which assesses how the government is responding to the tobacco industry’s tactics by using the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines. In 2020, the country scored 57/100, reflecting there is a problem of tobacco industry meddling in public policy making. This Index uses the questionnaire developed by the Southeast Asian Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA). The evidence used

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⁸ [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42813/9243591010.pdf?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42813/9243591010.pdf?sequence=1)

⁹ [https://www.who.int/fctc/guidelines/article_5_3_es.pdf](https://www.who.int/fctc/guidelines/article_5_3_es.pdf)

¹⁰ [https://bwnews.pr/3oknq3M](https://bwnews.pr/3oknq3M)

¹¹ Annex B
in this questionnaire is limited only to publicly available information. This survey covers the period from January 2020 to March 2021. Scores are applied to evaluate the implementation. Scores range from 0 to 5. The lower the score, the better the compliance with the Guidelines of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

We hope that this report can contribute to improving the activity of government bodies against the strategies employed by tobacco industry.
Summary Findings

1. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT
   No evidence of tobacco industry participation in setting or implementing public health policies in relation to tobacco control by the Venezuelan government, nor any participation of government officials in activities convened by the tobacco industry was recorded. Therefore, we cannot point out that the industry is involved in the implementation of health policies. Venezuela does not have an expressed regulation prohibiting the participation of the tobacco industry in Committees or the Working Groups.

2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES
   Our findings show that the tobacco industry activities are classified as Corporate Social Responsibility in the community, in marketing and in the field. Bigott Fondation reports it “Growign Up” program has been implemented in 100 educational establishments (public and private), almost 500 teachers have been trained. We have also found this type of activity in non-smoking tobacco companies\(^\text{12,13}\).
   
   We can also mention Fundación Avelino Molina\(^\text{14}\), which is an organization created to benefit the low-income inhabitants in some communities. This foundation is hundred percent associated with Chimó El Tigrito, which is a company that manufactures non-smoked tobacco.

3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY
   There is weakness in the auditing and verifying compliance of tobacco industry to existing laws on tobacco control. In the course of this review, many violations of the rules on prohibiting the promotion, advertising and sponsorship of the tobacco industry were recorded. Non-compliance serves to benefit the tobacco industry to promote their products despite the law. During this period, there is insufficient evidence in the public domain of what the Venezuelan government granted in terms of privilege or benefit exemptions to the tobacco industry. However, there is non-compliance by the tobacco companies with the Total Ban on Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship of Tobacco Products Resolution published in Official Gazette No. 41.684 of 31 July 2019. Non-compliance serves to benefit the tobacco industry to promote their products despite the law. International travelers entering Venezuela can bring duty free, 25 cigars and 200 cigarettes.\(^\text{15}\) Venezuela is part of the G-3 was a free trade agreement between Colombia and Mexico.

4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION
   There is interaction between government entities and the tobacco industry in the field of smuggling.\(^\text{16}\) Venezuela has not ratified the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco.
Products. In the area of smuggling, Cigarrera Bigott conducted workshops for government authorities such as the Bolivarian National Guard, even training them to recognize the company's own products. In 2020, the tobacco industry has focused on publishing articles on smuggling in the press, mentioning Consecocemio or Luis Vicente León, an organization or economists of famous trajectory, associated it with their alleged losses. Cigarrera Bigott is part of the British Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce. Some findings indicate that the government accepts assistance from the tobacco industry to enforce the law, such as raiding tobacco smuggling or enforcing smoke-free policies or not selling minors. Cigarrera Biggot reports that it “… regularly collaborates with the training of members of the Bolivarian National Guard in the recognition of the illegal product and is active in carrying out information campaigns at points of sale, such as "18 o'clock", a campaign that includes a message about the sale of illicit cigarettes.”

5. TRANSPARENCY
The government does not publicly disclose meetings/interactions with the tobacco industry. There is no procedure in place on how interactions should be conducted in the event they take place.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
No record of activities can be configured as a conflict of interest between industry and government authorities in the report period. There is a total prohibition of any form of sponsorship by the tobacco industry in Article 3 of the Resolution No. 071 of the Ministry of People's Power for Health. This article establishes the guidelines for the total prohibition of advertising, promotion and sponsorship and regulation of the sale of Tobacco products in the national territory of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In this regard, being prohibited, there cannot be no disclosure.

7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES
Venezuela does not have regulations or a code of conduct that can prevent unnecessary interaction between public officials and industry. The government has an intergovernmental commission on tobacco control, which is not formal in nature and has ceased to meet. The government has no plan in place to consistently raise awareness on Article 5.3

Resolution No. 109, establishing the regulation and control of cigarettes and other tobacco products intended for human consumption, which provides that any marketing company, national manufacturer, importer or exporter of cigarettes or tobacco products, smoke producers or not, shall submit to the Directorate-General for Environmental Health and Health Contraloria, the application for the Registration of Companies, entering for this purpose the Register of incorporation thereof, duly certified by the relevant authority for its confrontation, with expression of the name of the company, the address and address clearly specified and the legal representative thereof, as well as the RIF and the NIT. Additional information on the sales, production, promotion and advertising.

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17 https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/
19 https://www.ghm.com.ve/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/
20 Official Gazette No. 41.6 dated 84 July 31 2019
**Recommendations**

The Venezuelan government must:

1. Raise awareness among the population about the harms caused by tobacco consumption and tobacco industry interference.
2. Reduce unnecessary interaction with the tobacco industry.
3. Participate in all Conference of the Party (COP), as the body the president of the Framework Convention, which keeps the implementation of the Convention under regular review and takes the necessary decisions to promote its effective implementation.
4. Reject any kind of partnership and agreement with the tobacco industry.
5. Periodically review and strengthen existing anti-smoking policies.
6. Avoid conflict of interest and any preferential treatment with the tobacco industry.
7. Denormalize Corporate Social Responsibility activities of the tobacco industry.
8. Develop a Code of Conduct to guide officials in their relationship with representatives of the tobacco industry.
9. Require the tobacco industry to publish its information on its production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and any other activity, including lobbying, philanthropy, political contributions and all other activities.
10. Disclose and record meetings with the tobacco industry highlighting details of discussion and government responses for public access and information.
11. Promote awareness campaigns that serve everyone (officials and society) in which it is clearly demonstrated that the State and the tobacco industry have conflicting interests and do not have to interact.
12. Implementation of a solid surveillance and control system, for the regulations in the country.
# 2021 Tobacco Industry Interference Index
## Results and Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR 1: Level of Industry Participation in Policy-Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The government accepts, supports or endorses any offer for assistance by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry in setting or implementing public health policies in relation to tobacco control (Rec 3.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Venezuela, there is no regulation prohibiting tobacco industry from participating in tobacco control policies despite its ratification of the WHO FCTC. However there is no evidence available in the public domain of the participation of the tobacco industry in policy development have been recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The government accepts, supports or endorses policies or legislation drafted by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry. (Rec 3.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No evidence of the government accepting, supporting or endorsing policies or legislation drafted by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry have been recorded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The government allows/invites the tobacco industry to sit in government interagency/ multi-sectoral committee/ advisory group body that sets public health policy. (Rec 4.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela does not have an expressed regulation prohibiting the participation of the tobacco industry in Committees or the Working Groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The government nominates or allows representatives from the tobacco industry (including State-owned) in the delegation to the COP or other subsidiary bodies or accepts their sponsorship for delegates. (i.e. COP 4 &amp; 5, INB 4 5, WG) (Rec 4.9 &amp; 8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The government does not nominate or allow representatives from the tobacco industry in the COP and other related meetings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List of Participants
Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control FCTC/COP/8 1 – 6 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

1 – 6 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

21 [https://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/LOP_Final.pdf](https://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/LOP_Final.pdf)
**Chief Delegate:**


**Deputy Chief Delegate:**


**Delegate:**

Ms. G. Campos De Mazzone - Counsellor.

**INDICATOR 2: Industry CSR activities**

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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>A. The government agencies or its officials endorses, supports, forms partnerships with or participates in so-called CSR activities organized by the tobacco industry. (Rec 6.2)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. The government (its agencies and officials) receives contributions (monetary or otherwise) from the tobacco industry (including so-called CSR contributions). (Rec 6.4)</td>
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Bigott Fondation reports its “Growning Up” program has been implemented in 100 educational establishments (public and private), almost 500 teachers have been trained.²²

We can also mention Fundación Avelino Molina²³, which is an organization created to benefit the low-income inhabitants in some communities. This foundation is hundred percent associated with Chimó El Tigrito, which is a company that manufactures non-smoked tobacco.

**INDICATOR 3: Benefits to the Tobacco Industry**

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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The government accommodates requests from the tobacco industry for a longer time frame for implementation or postponement of tobacco control law. (e.g. 180 days is common for PHW, Tax increase can be implemented within 1 month) (Rec 7.1)</td>
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</table>

There is no evidence of applications by tobacco companies to the government requesting for longer time frame in implementation of laws.

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²³ **Compromiso Social – Chimo El Tigrito**
7. The government gives privileges, incentives, exemptions or benefits to the tobacco industry (Rec 7.3) | 3

During this period, there is insufficient evidence in the public domain of what the Venezuelan government granted in terms of privilege or benefit exemptions to the tobacco industry. However, there is non-compliance by the tobacco companies with the Total Ban on Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship of Tobacco Products Resolution published in Official Gazette No. 41.684 of 31 July 2019. Non-compliance serves to benefit the tobacco industry to promote their products despite the law (Annex 1 and 2). International travelers entering Venezuela can bring duty free, 25 cigars and 200 cigarettes.24

Venezuela is part of the G-3 was a free trade agreement between Colombia and Mexico (Annex 1 and II)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR 4: Forms of Unnecessary Interaction</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Top level government officials (such as President/ Prime Minister or Minister) meet with/ foster relations with the tobacco companies such as attending social functions and other events sponsored or organized by the tobacco companies or those furthering its interests. (Rec 2.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No evidence was found on the participation of senior officials in meetings with the Tobacco Industry (social functions and other events).

| 9. The government accepts assistance/ offers of assistance from the tobacco industry on enforcement such as conducting raids on tobacco smuggling or enforcing smoke free policies or no sales to minors. (including monetary contribution for these activities) (Rec 4.3) | 4 |

In the area of smuggling, Cigarrera Bigott conducted workshops for government authorities such as the Bolivarian National Guard, even training them to recognize the company’s own products.25

In 2020, the tobacco industry has focused on publishing articles on smuggling in the press, mentioning Consecomerccio or Luis Vicente León, an organization or economists of famous trajectory, associated it with their alleged losses.26

Cigarrera Bigott is part of the British Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce.

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25 https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-mimos/
Some findings indicate that the government accepts assistance from the tobacco industry to enforce the law, such as raiding tobacco smuggling or enforcing smoke-free policies or not selling minors.27

Cigarrera Biggot reports that it “… regularly collaborates with the training of members of the Bolivarian National Guard in the recognition of the illegal product and is active in carrying out information campaigns at points of sale, such as "18 o’clock", a campaign that includes a message about the sale of illicit cigarettes.”28 (Annex III)

10. The government accepts, supports, endorses, or enters into partnerships or agreements with the tobacco industry. (Rec 3.1)
NOTE: This must not involve CSR, enforcement activity, or tobacco control policy development since these are already covered in the previous questions.

No evidence that the Venezuelan government accepts, supports, supports or establishes partnerships or agreements with the tobacco industry.

INDICATOR 5: Transparency

11. The government does not publicly disclose meetings/interactions with the tobacco industry in cases where such interactions are strictly necessary for regulation. (Rec 2.2)

There are no publications of government interaction meetings with the tobacco industry. There is no procedure in place on how these interactions should be conducted in the event they take place.

12. The government requires rules for the disclosure or registration of tobacco industry entities, affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf including lobbyists (Rec 5.3)

The government does not require rules for the disclosure or registration of tobacco industry entities, affiliated organizations, and persons acting on their behalf, including pressure groups.

INDICATOR 6: Conflict of Interest

13. The government does not prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry or any entity working to further its interests to political parties, candidates, or campaigns or to require full disclosure of such contributions. (Rec 4.11)

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27 https://www.ghm.com.ve/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/
28 https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/
There is a total prohibition of any form of sponsorship by the tobacco industry in Article 3 of the Resolution No. 071 of the Ministry of People’s Power for Health. This article establishes the guidelines for the total prohibition of advertising, promotion and sponsorship and regulation of the sale of Tobacco products in the national territory of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In this regard, being prohibited, there cannot be no disclosure.

14. Retired senior government officials form part of the tobacco industry (former Prime Minister, Minister, Attorney General) (Rec 4.4) 0

No information about senior retired government officials being part of the tobacco industry.

15. Current government officials and relatives hold positions in the tobacco business including consultancy positions. (Rec 4.5, 4.8, 4.10) 0

No evidence that current government and family officials hold positions in the Tobacco business.

**INDICATOR 7: Preventive Measures**

16. The government has put in place a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the tobacco industry and its representatives. (Rec 5.1) 5

The government does not have an established a procedure to disclose records of interaction (such as the agenda, attendees, minutes and results) with the tobacco industry and its representatives.

17. The government has formulated, adopted or implemented a code of conduct for public officials, prescribing the standards with which they should comply in their dealings with the tobacco industry. (Rec 4.2) 5

The government has not formulated, adopted or implemented a code of conduct for public officials, prescribing the rules they must meet in their relations with the tobacco industry.

18. The government requires the tobacco industry to periodically submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and any other activity, including lobbying, philanthropy, political contributions and all other activities. (5.2) 3

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29 Official Gazette No. 41.6 dated 84 July 31 2019
Resolution No. 109, establishing the regulation and control of cigarettes and other tobacco products intended for human consumption, which provides that any marketing company, national manufacturer, importer or exporter of cigarettes or tobacco products, smoke producers or not, shall submit to the Directorate-General for Environmental Health and Health Contraloria, the application for the Registration of Companies, entering for this purpose the Register of incorporation thereof, duly certified by the relevant authority for its confrontation, with expression of the name of the company, the address and address clearly specified and the legal representative thereof, as well as the RIF and the NIT.

Additional information on the sales, production, promotion and advertising data of the products they market on the market, released:

1. Monthly amount of product sold per state
2. Monthly amount exported by destination country
3. Monthly quantity imported by country of origin.
5. Monthly consumer sales price.
6. Monthly expenditure for promotion and advertising of the product by state.\(^{30}\)

Other activities, including lobbying, philanthropy, and political contributions are not required by the government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19. The government has a program / system/ plan to consistently raise awareness within its departments on policies relating to FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines. (Rec 1.1, 1.2)</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The government has an intergovernmental commission on tobacco control, which is not formal in nature and has ceased to meet. The government has no plan in place to consistently raise awareness on Article 5.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. The government has put in place a policy to disallow the acceptance of all forms of contributions/ gifts from the tobacco industry (monetary or otherwise) including offers of assistance, policy drafts, or study visit invitations given or offered to the government, its agencies, officials and their relatives. (3.4)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The government has not established a policy to refuse acceptance of any form of contribution or gift from the tobacco industry (monetary or otherwise), including offers of assistance, bills or policies, invitations to academic activities offered to the central government, its units, officials or their families.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 60

\(^{30}\) [http://sacs.gob.ve/site/images/documentos/antitabaco/control_regulacion_de_tabaco_sacs.pdf](http://sacs.gob.ve/site/images/documentos/antitabaco/control_regulacion_de_tabaco_sacs.pdf)
## ANNEX A: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

### TOBACCO INDUSTRY ACTIVITY

#### LOCAL TOBACCO COMPANIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Tobacco Companies/distributors</th>
<th>Market Share and Brands</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### TOBACCO INDUSTRY AFFILIATED GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Tobacco Industry Representative</th>
<th>Type (Front Group/ Affiliate/ Individual)</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bigott Foundation</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td><a href="https://www.fundacionbigott.org/?v=a99877f71bd9">https://www.fundacionbigott.org/?v=a99877f71bd9</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avelino Molina Foundation</td>
<td>Front Group</td>
<td><a href="https://chimoeltigrito.com/compromiso/">https://chimoeltigrito.com/compromiso/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### NEWS SOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Newspaper/Dailies</th>
<th>Type (Print/Online)</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td><a href="https://www.bbc.com/mundo">https://www.bbc.com/mundo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking and Business</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td><a href="https://www.bancaynegocios.com/">https://www.bancaynegocios.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 20thSte</td>
<td>Print/online</td>
<td><a href="https://elestimulo.com/">https://elestimulo.com/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 1
Chimó El Tigrito. ¿Did you know that many people use Chimó El Tigrito because they consider it has an analgesic properties?
May 13 - 2021 Time 20:01

Enlace: https://www.instagram.com/p/CKOrRleiGeO5/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Más publicaciones de chimoeltigritoficial
Anexo II
Tabacco Store 5 reasons why smoking a cigar is relaxing.
May 13 - 2021 Time 20:36

Enlace: https://tabaccostore.com.ve/5-razones-por-las-que-fumar-a-un-puro-es-relajante/
Annex III:
Due to cigarette smuggling activities, it was a fiscal loss equivalent to 24.14 billion minimum wages
May 12 – 2021 Time 20:26

Due to cigarette smuggling activities, it was a fiscal loss equivalent to 24.14 billion minimum wages. May 12 – 2021
https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/

1. Mientras que un cigarrillo ilegal generalmente tiene un valor de unos 1 bolívares...

Enlace: https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/

Miercoles, 12 de mayo de 2021
Contacto: Informe Privado: Suscríbete

Pérdida fiscal por contrabando de cigarillos equivale a 24.140 millones de salarios mínimos

Agosto 13, 2019 // Banca y Negocios @bancaynegocios

Cigarrillos Bigott, compañía líder en la producción y comercialización de cigarillos, con casi 100 años de operación en el país, alerta a la opinión pública y a las autoridades competentes el considerable incremento del consumo de cigarillos ilegales, a través del contrabando y falsificación de este producto; penetración que llegó a más de 300% en comparación con el 2018 y que se ha evidenciado en el primer semestre de este año.

Según Acucard, el sector del tabaco, el consumo de cigarillos ilegales, entre enero y junio del 2018, se ubicó en un 2.3%, lo que dejó a esta cantidad aproximadamente 2,800.700 mil millones de cigarillos. Para el periodo julio y agosto, los países de América del Sur y del Pacífico, son algunas de las 97 marcas que se encuentran en el mercado nacional y que no surgen con la permesa legal implementada por el Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Salud y por el Seniat, entre otros organismos.

Daniella Álvarez, Directora de Asuntos Corporativos de Cigarrillos Bigott, informó que “un cigarrillo ilegal es el que se produce y comercializa bajo una marca que, en el caso de aquellos que producen cigarillos en países como Canadá, Colombia y Estados Unidos, son modificadas para que no se detecten por las medidas de control, y son en realidad el producto que se comercializa y es consumido, pero que no cumple con los estándares de calidad, es decir, no cumple con las normas de producción y comercialización de cigarillos”. Además, señaló que el 26% de los cigarillos ilegales presentes en Venezuela son adquiridos en Paraguay, el 32% en Colombia y el restante en Uruguay, China, Corea del Sur, India, Emiratos Árabes, en países de la Unión Europea, entre otros, detalla Álvarez.

Para el Estado, el comercio ilegal de cigarillos es un gran adversario, ejemplo de ello es que este volumen de consumo de cigarillos ilegales, 3x, registrado en el primer semestre, representó para el Fisco Nacional una pérdida estimada de 96.600.000 millones de bolívares, que equivalen a 24.140 millones de salarios mínimos, aproximadamente.

Otra de las características de este comercio ilegal es que la mayoría de las veces el producto se manufactura en fábricas que no son legales, y que el 40% de los cigarillos ilegales consumidos en el mercado venezolano, en las zonas fronterizas con Colombia, son adquiridos por el contrabando. "La mayoría de los cigarillos ilegales presentes en Venezuela son adquiridos en países como Canadá, Colombia y el restante en Uruguay, China, Corea del Sur, India, Emiratos Árabes, en países de la Unión Europea, entre otros", detalla Álvarez.

Las investigaciones también señalan que 50% de cigarillos de contrabando ingresan a Venezuela por las zonas fronterizas con Colombia y el restante a través de Aruba, Curazao y la Frontera con Brasil. Las principales áreas o zonas de ingreso del contrabando de cigarillos a Venezuela son los estados Bolivar, Falcón, Yaracuy y Zulia.

Cigarrillos Bigott considera que el comercio ilegal de cigarillos es un grave problema que perjudica la salud de los consumidores y afecta las finanzas del país, “Abordaremos y trataremos el tema de manera abierta y proactiva, junto con representantes gubernamentales y reiteramos que como eso favorece lo que en nuestro caso es muy perjudicial, en especial cuando se está operando en el mercado en el que estamos, lo que no es beneficioso y perjudicial a todos”, reporta Álvarez.

Ejemplo de ello es el compromiso que tiene Cigarrillos Bigott con las autoridades
en la lucha contra el contrabando. La empresa regularmente colabora con el adiestramiento de miembros de la Guardia Nacional Bolivariana en el reconocimiento del producto ilegal y es activa en la realización de campañas informativas en los puntos de venta, como "18 y punto", campaña que incluye un mensaje sobre la venta de cigarrillos ilícitos.