

# Argentina

Overall score:

66

## Summary of Findings

### 1. Industry participation in policy development

The tobacco industry is not authorized to be a part of the National Tobacco Control Commission convened by the National Ministry of Health. However, it has systematically interfered in different governmental levels through lobbying actions, affecting the design and implementation of policies and the process of ratification of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which the government has not ratified yet.

### 2. Industry CSR activities

CSR activities are not banned by the Argentinian National Tobacco Control Law. Research has shown that different government agencies and non-governmental organizations, both at the national and sub-national levels, have participated in tobacco industry-sponsored activities which target children and adolescents.

### 3. Benefits to the industry

The Executive Branch does not regulate tobacco control laws in the time established by the Legislative Branch. This time gap generally represents a benefit for the tobacco industry since it conducts its activities guided by the previous regulatory framework. Regarding taxation, the 2017 Reform lead to a decrease in the taxes to be paid by this sector.

### 4. Unnecessary interaction

The participation of key actors from the Executive Branch in events financed by the tobacco industry has been verified on different occasions. Furthermore, the tobacco industry has provided

technical assistance to security forces regarding illicit trade of tobacco products. These actions were conducted through a framework agreement signed by the National Ministry of Security.

### 5. Transparency

Argentina does not have a registry of associations and companies related to the tobacco industry nor a registry of lobbyists. Meetings between government officials and the tobacco industry are generally not public, and civil society organizations are not invited. Meetings and encounters are not properly recorded.

### 6. Conflict of interest

On several occasions, the transfer of public officials to the tobacco industry has been detected. At the same time, people from the tobacco industry were hired by the government. These movements are commonly known as "revolving doors." In turn, records have been found on gifts that the tobacco industry makes and that are accepted by public officials.

### 7. Preventive measures

The Argentinian government does not have a code of conduct nor plans or systems to discourage the interference of the tobacco industry in public policies. Only the National Ministry of Health takes measures (still partial measures) to prevent the interaction between public officials and the tobacco industry in the design of tobacco control policies. The government periodically requests information from the tobacco industry regarding the marketing, sales and ingredients of its products.



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## Recommendations

Although Argentina has made great progress regarding tobacco control and transparency policies, the following recommendations remain necessary to be enacted:

1. Develop a code of conduct aimed at restricting interactions of public officials from all branches with the tobacco industry.
2. Modify the National Tobacco Control Law in order to completely ban tobacco product advertising, promotion and sponsorship. These new restrictions should provide a system of monitoring and effective compliance against the tobacco industry's CSR activities.
3. Develop a registry of companies and associations linked to the tobacco industry. This registry should include information about lobbyists, both at the national and subnational levels.
4. Ratify the WHO FCTC.