

# Slovenia



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### 1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

Official endorsements of industry-drafted policies have not been documented, but the policy process has implicitly favored tobacco industry (TI) interests. NGOs reported that powerful lobbyists inserted TI proposals into draft legislation, using their access to sway parliamentarians. No official decree can be cited where the government endorsed an industry-written law, yet documented behavior such as fast-track amendments and close TI–government contacts indicates the industry’s agenda advanced in practice.

Slovenia has so far avoided formally including TI representatives on official health advisory or tobacco control bodies. Public health councils and committees under the Ministry of Health are composed of government and NGO experts, not industry actors.

### 2. Industry CSR Activities

Slovenian authorities have not been observed collaborating with tobacco companies on corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects or accepting CSR donations. No government press release or NGO report shows ministers or agencies endorsing industry-led campaigns such as “youth smoking prevention” or environmental programs. Slovenia’s tobacco law broadly bans all promotional gifts and support to events, which in effect prevents the government from accepting such contributions.

### 3. Benefits to the Industry

Slovenian fiscal policy has provided clear economic benefits to the TI. Heated tobacco is taxed substantially lower than cigarettes. By mid-2023 excise on heated tobacco was €116/kg, whereas the minimum excise on cigarettes exceeded €141/kg. This tax discrepancy privileges heated tobacco products and undermines public health objectives. Slovenia has not introduced stricter limits on duty-free imports beyond EU minima, so travelers continue to enjoy the full allowance. Nor has the government aligned heated tobacco taxation with cigarette taxes, as noted above. These measures indirectly support the TI through favorable excise treatment.

### 4. Unnecessary Interaction

There is no evidence of high-level government officials attending TI events. No press or NGO reports were found of the Prime Minister, President, or cabinet members meeting industry executives at ceremonial functions or sponsored gatherings. Likewise, Slovenia has not accepted TI assistance for tobacco control enforcement. Police and customs operations are conducted independently by the government without TI involvement.

### 5. Transparency

Slovenia currently has minimal transparency on its interactions with the TI. Government agendas, minutes, or participant lists for meetings with the TI are not published in any public registry or on government websites. The Commission for the Prevention of Corruption maintains



a public register of lobbyists. As of the end of 2023, 84 professional lobbyists, including foreign registrants, were listed in the register. Lobbyists are required to report contacts with public officials, in theory including TI representatives.

## 6. Conflict of Interest

Slovenia does not ban TI contributions to political parties or mandate specific disclosure of such contributions. Current law prohibits only industry donations aimed at promoting tobacco brands, not general political donations. There are no publicized cases of former senior Slovene officials taking positions with tobacco companies or industry fronts. Similarly, there is no evidence that current government officials or their relatives hold positions with the TI.

## 7. Preventive Measures

The government has no formal requirement to publicly record or disclose routine meetings with the TI. There is no standard procedure for keeping agendas, minutes, or attendee lists of such interactions, and no mechanism to make them accessible. General transparency legislation does not single out tobacco-related meetings. Slovenia has not adopted a binding policy forbidding gifts or assistance from the TI. The tobacco law bans promotional giveaways, but this mainly addresses commercial advertising, not gifts to government officials. There is no regulation specifically prohibiting officials' acceptance of tobacco-funded trips, draft documents, or study tours.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop and strictly enforce a comprehensive, government-wide code of conduct addressing interactions between public officials and TI representatives.
2. Introduce and enforce formal policies explicitly prohibiting government officials from accepting any form of gifts, contributions, sponsorships, or assistance from the TI, including policy drafts and sponsored study visits.
3. Prohibit TI contributions to political parties, candidates, and election campaigns to avoid conflicts of interest.
4. Mandate periodic detailed reporting from tobacco companies operating in Slovenia on production volumes, market shares, marketing expenditures, lobbying activities, philanthropic contributions, and political donations.
5. Establish mandatory training programs within all government agencies to consistently raise awareness and build capacity regarding Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.