

VENEZUELA

2021

TOBACCO  
INDUSTRY  
INTERFERENCE  
INDEX

# Introduction

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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.<sup>1</sup>
- The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC),<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup>
- 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<sup>4</sup>
- Resolution No. 030, which issues the Resolution on Environments Free of Tobacco Smoke<sup>5</sup>
- 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<sup>6</sup>
- 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<sup>7</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> Official Gazette No. 5.908 of 19 February 2009

<sup>2</sup> Official Gazette No. 38.304 dated 1 November 2005

<sup>3</sup> Official Gazette No. 39.546 November 5, 2010

<sup>4</sup> Official Gazette No. 36,976 date 20 June 2000

<sup>5</sup> Official Gazette No. 39,627 date March 2, 2011

<sup>6</sup> Official Gazette No. 40,382 dated 28 March 2014

<sup>7</sup> Official Gazette No. 41.6 dated 84 July 31 2019

the WHO FCTC is its article 5, section 3, which provides that:<sup>8</sup> "... 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 recommendations<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> In addition to this, Venezuela also has a large number of chimó (smokeless tobacco preparation) and tobacco companies (habanos) that exist on social networks.<sup>11</sup>

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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<sup>8</sup> <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42813/9243591010.pdf?sequence=1>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.who.int/fctc/guidelines/article\\_5\\_3\\_es.pdf](https://www.who.int/fctc/guidelines/article_5_3_es.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://bwnews.pr/3oknq3M>

<sup>11</sup> 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

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## 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 Foundation reports its “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<sup>1213</sup>.

We can also mention Fundación Avelino Molina<sup>14</sup>, 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.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup> Venezuela has not ratified the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco

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<sup>12</sup> [http://www.bigott.com.ve/group/sites/BAT\\_9T2E9S.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO9T2ET7?opendocument](http://www.bigott.com.ve/group/sites/BAT_9T2E9S.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO9T2ET7?opendocument)

<sup>13</sup> <https://chimoeltigrito.com/compromis> o/

<sup>14</sup> [Compromiso Social – Chimo El Tigrito](https://www.chimoeltigrito.com/compromis)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/VE-Venezuela-customs-currency-airport-tax-regulations-summary.htm>

<sup>16</sup> <https://elestimulo.com/elinteres/bigott-alerta-aumento-del-300-en-el-consumo-de-cigarrillos-ilicitos/>

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.<sup>17</sup> In 2020, the tobacco industry has focused on publishing articles on smuggling in the press, mentioning Consecomericio or Luis Vicente León, an organization or economists of famous trajectory, associated it with their alleged losses.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> 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<sup>20</sup>. 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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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.france24.com/es/minuto-a-minuto/20210319-el-cigarrillo-de-contrabando-reina-en-una-venezuela-en-quebra>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ghm.com.ve/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/>

<sup>20</sup> Official Gazette No. 41.6 dated 84 July 31 2019

## Recommendations

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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

	0	1	2	3	4	5
<b>INDICATOR 1: Level of Industry Participation in Policy-Development</b>						
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)				3		
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.						
2. The government accepts, supports or endorses <u>policies or legislation drafted</u> by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry. (Rec 3.4)				3		
No evidence of the government accepting, supporting or endorsing <u>policies or legislation drafted</u> by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry have been recorded.						
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)					4	
Venezuela does not have an expressed regulation prohibiting the participation of the tobacco industry in Committees or the Working Groups.						
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 & 5, INB 4 5, WG) (Rec 4.9 & 8.3)		1				
The government does not nominate or allow representatives from the tobacco industry in the COP and other related meetings.						
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 <sup>21</sup>  1 – 6 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland 05 October 2018						

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/LOP\\_Final.pdf](https://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/LOP_Final.pdf)



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**Chief Delegate:**

J. Valero Briceño - *Ambassador, Permanent Mission, Geneva.*

**Deputy Chief Delegate:**

R. Sánchez Bello - *Ambassador Alternate, Permanent Mission, Geneva.*

**Delegate:**

Ms. G. Campos De Mazzone - *Counsellor.*

**INDICATOR 2: Industry CSR activities**

5. 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)						
B. The government (its agencies and officials) receives contributions (monetary or otherwise) from the tobacco industry (including so-called CSR contributions). (Rec 6.4)				3		

Bigott Fondation reports it “Growign Up” program has been implemented in 100 educational establishments (public and private), almost 500 teachers have been trained.<sup>22</sup>

We can also mention Fundación Avelino Molina<sup>23</sup>, 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**

6. 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)				2		
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There is no evidence of applications by tobacco companies to the government requesting for longer time frame in implementation of laws.

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.bigott.com.ve/group/sites/BAT\\_9T2E9S.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO9T2ET7?opendocument](http://www.bigott.com.ve/group/sites/BAT_9T2E9S.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO9T2ET7?opendocument)

<sup>23</sup> [Compromiso Social – Chimo El Tigrito](#)

	0	1	2	3	4	5
7. The government gives privileges, incentives, exemptions or benefits to the tobacco industry (Rec 7.3)				3		
<p>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 I and 2). International travelers entering Venezuela can bring duty free, 25 cigars and 200 cigarettes.<sup>24</sup></p> <p>Venezuela is part of the G-3 was a free trade agreement between Colombia and Mexico (Annex I and II)</p>						
<b>INDICATOR 4: Forms of Unnecessary Interaction</b>						
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)	0					
<p>No evidence was found on the participation of senior officials in meetings with the Tobacco Industry (social functions and other events).</p>						
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	
<p>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.<sup>25</sup></p> <p>In 2020, the tobacco industry has focused on publishing articles on smuggling in the press, mentioning Consecomericio or Luis Vicente León, an organization or economists of famous trajectory, associated it with their alleged losses.<sup>26</sup></p> <p>Cigarrera Bigott is part of the British Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce.</p>						

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/VE-Venezuela-customs-currency-airport-tax-regulations-summary.htm>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.france24.com/es/minuto-a-minuto/20210319-el-cigarrillo-de-contrabando-reina-en-una-venezuela-en-quebra>

	0	1	2	3	4	5
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. <sup>27</sup>						
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." <sup>28</sup> (Annex III)						
10. The government accepts, supports, endorses, or enters into partnerships or agreements with the tobacco industry. (Rec 3.1) NOTE: This must <u>not</u> involve CSR, enforcement activity, or tobacco control policy development since these are already covered in the previous questions.		1				
No evidence that the Venezuelan government accepts, supports, supports or establishes partnerships or agreements with the tobacco industry.						
<b>INDICATOR 5: Transparency</b>						
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)						5
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)						5
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.						
<b>INDICATOR 6: Conflict of Interest</b>						
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)				3		

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.ghm.com.ve/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-cigarrillos-equivale-a-24-140-millones-de-salarios-minimos/>

	0	1	2	3	4	5
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 <sup>29</sup> . 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. <u>Current government officials</u> 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.						
<b>INDICATOR 7: Preventive Measures</b>						
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		

<sup>29</sup> Official Gazette No. 41.6 dated 84 July 31 2019

	0	1	2	3	4	5
<p>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.</p> <p>Additional information on the sales, production, promotion and advertising data of the products they market on the market, released:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monthly amount of product sold per state</li> <li>2. Monthly amount exported by destination country</li> <li>3. Monthly quantity imported by country of origin.</li> <li>4. Monthly quantity produced.</li> <li>5. Monthly consumer sales price.</li> <li>6. Monthly expenditure for promotion and advertising of the product by state.<sup>30</sup></li> </ol> <p>Other activities, including lobbying, philanthropy, and political contributions are not required by the government</p>						
<p>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)</p>						5
<p>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</p>						
<p>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)</p>						5
<p>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.</p>						
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>60</b>

<sup>30</sup> [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

Top 5 Tobacco Companies/distributors	Market Share and Brands	Source
C.A. National Tobacco Tab (Phillip Morris International)	Astor	<a href="https://www.pmi.com/markets/venezuela/es">https://www.pmi.com/markets/venezuela/es</a>
	Marlboro	
	Derby	
Cigarrera Bigott C.A. (British American Tobacco)	Belmont	<a href="http://www.bigott.com.ve/">http://www.bigott.com.ve/</a>
	Pall Mall	
	Lucky Strike	
	Viceroy	
	Universal	

#### TOBACCO INDUSTRY AFFILIATED GROUPS

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

#### NEWS SOURCES

Top 5 Newspaper/Dailies	Type (Print/Online)	URL
Latest News	Print/online	<a href="https://ultimasnoticias.com.ve/">https://ultimasnoticias.com.ve/</a>
BBC	Online	<a href="https://www.bbc.com/mundo">https://www.bbc.com/mundo</a>
France24	Online	<a href="https://www.france24.com/es/">https://www.france24.com/es/</a>
Banking and Business	Online	<a href="https://www.bancaynegocios.com/">https://www.bancaynegocios.com/</a>
The 20thSte	Print/online	<a href="https://elestimulo.com/">https://elestimulo.com/</a>

**Annex I**  
**Chimó El Tigrito. ¿Did you know that many people use Chimó El Tigrito because they consider it has analgesic properties?**  
**May 13 - 2021 Time 20:01**

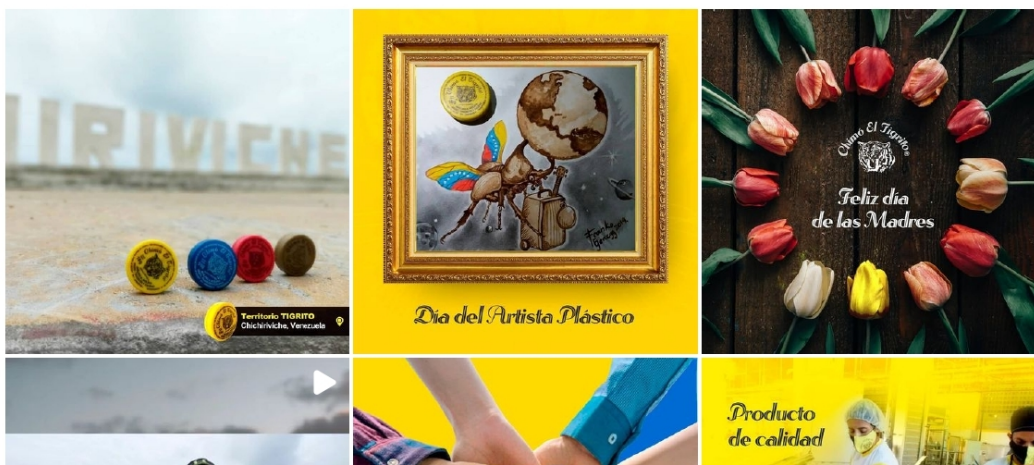
Enlace: [https://www.instagram.com/p/CKOrRlegeO5/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CKOrRlegeO5/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

Chimó El Tigrito/ Producto en Instagram: "¿Sabías que muchas personas..."

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CKOrRlegeO5/>

The screenshot shows the Instagram interface. At the top, the word "Instagram" is on the left, and a search bar with "Buscar" is in the center. Navigation icons for home, messages, explore, activity, and profile are on the right. The main post is from the account "chimoeltigritoficial". The image shows a person's face with their hand resting on their cheek, with a yellow overlay on the left that says "Alivia el dolor de muelas" and the "Chimó El Tigrito" logo. The caption reads: "¿Sabías que muchas personas usan Chimó El Tigrito, por considerar que tiene propiedades analgésicas?". It includes the hashtags #dolor #alivio #chimo #bueno #19ene and was posted 16 weeks ago. The post has 59 likes and is dated 19 DE ENERO. At the bottom, there is a comment input field with a smiley icon and the text "Agrega un comentario..." and a "Publicar" button.

Más publicaciones de chimoeltigritoficial



## Annex 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/>

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#### 20 5 RAZONES POR LAS QUE FUMAR UN PURO

Oct By [tabaccostore.com.ve](https://tabaccostore.com.ve) Articulos cigarro y habano, fumar cigarro 0 Comments

##### EL CIGARRO TE RELAJA

Una pregunta bastante común que se hace a los fumadores de cigarros: ¿por qué lo hacemos? ¿Por qué fumar un cigarro en lugar de un cigarrillo?

Puede haber una serie de razones por las cuales alguien se decanta por fumar un cigarro sobre un cigarrillo. Tal vez solo tenga ganas de fumar ocasionalmente, tal vez quiera tener algo diferente para fumar en una ocasión especial o sencillamente no le guste el sabor de los cigarrillos o a lo mejor solo quiere probar algo un poco diferente al menos por curiosidad.

Cualquiera que sea la razón para probar su primer cigarro, una de las respuestas más comunes sobre por qué seguimos fumándolos, es que fumar un cigarro puede ser una experiencia muy relajante y calmante, especialmente cuando se compara con fumar un cigarrillo estándar.

Pero, ¿cuál es la diferencia? ¿Por qué las personas generalmente encuentran que los cigarros que fuman le relajan?



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# 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

Enlace: [ht](#)  
[equivale-a](#)

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Aquí hay 5 razones posibles:



1. Mientras que un cigarrillo estándar generalmente toma solo unos minutos para



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Miércoles, 12 de mayo de 2021

Contacto Informe Privado Suscríbete



## Pérdida fiscal por contrabando de cigarrillos equivale a 24.140 millones de salarios mínimos

Agosto 13, 2019 // Banca y Negocios @bancaynegocios



[Escuchar este artículo](#)

Cigarrera Bigott, compañía líder en la producción y comercialización de cigarrillos 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 cigarrillos ilícitos, 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.**

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Pérdida fiscal por contrabando de cigarrillos equivale a 24.140 millones d... <https://www.bancaynegocios.com/perdida-fiscal-por-contrabando-de-ciga...>

Según estudios del sector, el consumo de cigarrillos ilícitos, entre enero y junio del 2019, se ubicó en un 25% lo que equivale a una cantidad aproximada de 1 billón 700 mil millones de cigarrillos ilícitos. Miller, Marine, Rumba, Ibiza, Malibu y Pacific, son algunas de las 67 marcas que se encuentran en el mercado nacional y que no cumplen con la permisividad 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 Cigarrera Bigott, informó que "un cigarrillo ilícito es el que se produce y comercializa bajo una marca que, aunque podría estar registrada, no cuenta con los permisos gubernamentales para operar legalmente. Es producido con materiales de baja calidad, su empaque no cuenta con las advertencias exigidas y su venta no está autorizada por el Ministerio de Salud, ni por la autoridad en materia de impuestos, los cuales no cancela al fisco".

Para el Estado, el comercio ilícito de cigarrillos es un gran adversario, ejemplo de ello es que este volumen de consumo de cigarrillos ilícitos, 25% registrado en el primer semestre, representa para el Fisco Nacional una pérdida estimada de 965.600.000 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, normalmente, es contrabandeadado de un país a otro: "Los estudios señalan que el 36% de los cigarrillos ilegales presentes en Venezuela son elaborados 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.

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Las investigaciones también señalan que 80% de cigarrillos de contrabando ingresa 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 cigarrillos a Venezuela son los Estados Bolívar, Falcón, Táchira y Zulia.

Cigarrera Bigott considera que el comercio ilícito de cigarrillos es un grave problema que potencia los riesgos de la salud de los consumidores y afecta las finanzas del país. "Abordamos y tratamos el tema de manera abierta y proactiva, tanto con representantes gubernamentales y reguladores como con actores de las cadenas de comercialización y el consumidor final. El asunto requiere una respuesta fuerte: industria, gobierno e instituciones de orden público trabajando juntos y con efectividad", recalzó Álvarez.

Ejemplo de ello es el compromiso que tiene Cigarrera Bigott con las autoridades

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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.