

Uruguay

Overall score:

34

I. Industry participation in policy development: The government does not accept, support or endorse any offer of assistance by, or in collaboration with, the tobacco industry in setting or implementing public health policies in relation to tobacco control. The government does not allow/ invite the tobacco industry to sit in government interagency committee/ advisory group that sets public health policy.

The Uruguay delegation to the COP and other WHO FCTC related meetings has not included representatives from the tobacco industry.

II. Tobacco industry-related CSR activities: Tobacco industry-related CSR activities are banned in Uruguay.

III. Benefits given to the tobacco industry: There is no evidence that government accommodates requests from the tobacco industry. From 1998 to 2018 there were general tax benefits for productive investment (National Interest, Promotion and Protection), that also benefited the tobacco industry. However, the benefit related to the tobacco industry was canceled by executive power resolution (Decree 143/2018) in May 2018.

International travelers are allowed to bring 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500 grams of tobacco into Uruguay.

IV. Unnecessary interaction with the tobacco industry: Top level government officials do not meet with the tobacco companies. Contacts are only made with the tobacco industry if necessary and in the presence of representatives of civil society.


V. Procedure for transparency measures: The President and Ministry of Public Health do not meet with tobacco industry. However, this may not be the case with other departments such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

There is no regulation establishing a procedure for disclosure in the event that a meeting takes place.

VI. Avoiding conflicts of interest: The government does not prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry. There is no evidence that current officials or retired senior government officials have joined the tobacco industry.

VII. Preventive measures: The Ministry of Health has a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the tobacco industry and its representatives. The government, as a whole, has not formulated a policy nor adopted any code of conduct for officials in their dealings with the tobacco industry.



The President and Ministry of Public Health do not meet with the tobacco industry. However, this may not be the case with other departments such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance. 

Recommendations

Much progress has been made for tobacco control and to address tobacco industry interference. However, these efforts can be strengthened further:

1. Adopt a code of conduct that applies to all government officials when dealing with the tobacco industry;
2. Adopt 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.
3. Require the tobacco industry to submit information on its marketing expenditures and other activities such as lobbying, political contributions and all other activities.