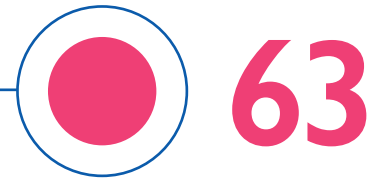


Egypt



Summary of Findings

1. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

No incidents of tobacco industry (TI) involvement in tobacco control policy development were identified during the reporting period.

The tobacco control department of the Ministry of Health (MOH) confirmed no participation of the TI in any of the COP/ MOP meetings.

2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

The Eastern Company was found to participate in a number of CSR activities such as village reconstruction efforts, hospital donations, social protection programs and sport sponsorships. The activities were not attended by high-level government officials. The identity of the TI and its front groups are generally unknown to the public or government agencies.

3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

The TI initially requested that they apply text-only health warnings on the heated tobacco products, but this request was rejected by the MOH. Graphic health warnings, analogous to traditional cigarette packs, were required in order to allow the products to be put on the national market.

The Prime Minister gave the TI a grace period of six months to reconcile their positions on the new type of “heat-based” cigarettes so that the requirements for sales of the product can be standardized.

The head of the Tobacco Division at the Federation of Industries submitted a letter of appreciation addressed to the President on his directive to exempt manufacturing requirements and raw materials from working with documentary credits and collection documents.

4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

The Minister of Manpower attended the signing of collective labor agreement between the Eastern Tobacco Company, the General Union of Workers in Food Industries, and the Trade Union Committee to achieve benefits for 3000 workers in the company.

Egypt Summit for the Better, the largest annual celebration honoring the most influential personalities and companies in the country, revealed the top 100 performing companies in the Egyptian market. The list included the Eastern Company. This event took place in the presence of a number of ministers, officials, economic leaders and policymakers, as is under the patronage of the Prime Minister.

The Customs Authority, in cooperation with Philip Morris Egypt, held a technical training course for several Customs officials in Alexandria with the aim of helping them distinguish between original and counterfeit products.

Philip Morris Egypt, in cooperation with the Egyptian Tax Authority, has launched a new initiative aimed at controlling the selling prices of tobacco products in the Egyptian market by printing a QR code on its tobacco product packs.

5. TRANSPARENCY

There are no laws requiring the government to publicly disclose meetings or interactions with the TI in cases where such interactions are strictly necessary for regulation. Similarly, there are no laws or regulations requiring the disclosure or registration of TI entities, affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf including lobbyists.



6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no laws prohibiting contributions from the TI or any entity working to further its interests to political parties, candidates, or campaigns or to require full disclosure of such contributions.

7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The government has not put in place a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the TI and its representatives.

The government has not formulated, adopted or implemented a code of conduct for public officials, prescribing the standards with which they should comply in their dealings with the TI.

Eastern Company, a state-owned company, submits records on production, manufacture, market share, and revenues. However, expenses such as philanthropy and other activities are not disclosed.

Recommendations

1. Ban TI-related CSR activities which can reduce opportunities for high-level government officials to participate and endorse industry activities.
2. Implement WHO FCTC Article 5.3 by creating laws and regulations to stop unnecessary interactions and ensure transparency when dealing with the TI to limit interactions to only when strictly necessary.
3. Treat state-owned tobacco enterprises like any other tobacco business and remove any benefits given to the TI.