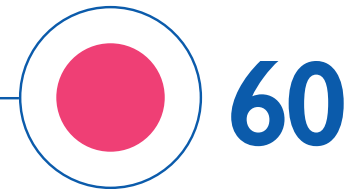


Egypt



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

No incidents of tobacco industry (TI) involvement in policy development were identified. The tobacco control department of the Ministry of Health confirmed that no representatives of tobacco companies participated in any Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings.

2. Industry CSR Activities

The Eastern Company has been involved in several corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, including contributions to healthcare, sports, and social welfare programs. Some of these events were attended by senior public officials, and the company's TI affiliation was visible to both the public and government agencies.

3. Benefits to the Industry

There is no evidence that the government has granted the TI requests for extended implementation timelines or postponements of tobacco control laws.

In 2023, the head of the Tobacco Division at the Federation of Industries publicly criticized delays in tax legislation. In interviews with industry outlets, he expressed concern over volatility in cigarette prices, attributing this in part to policy uncertainty and delays in tax regulations.

4. Unnecessary Interaction

The Egyptian government maintains active partnerships with the TI. Philip Morris Egypt collaborated with the Tax Authority on price stabilization and QR code verification systems. This alignment was further reflected in high level endorsements, such as the Prime Minister and Minister of Youth and Sports presenting awards at Eastern Company sponsored events, and the Minister of Finance recognizing Eastern Company as the "Best Performing EGX Listed Company 2023" during the Egypt Summit for Excellence 2024. Additionally, the Prime Minister directly instructed Eastern Company to increase production and supply chain inputs, underscoring government support for the TI's role in the market.

5. Transparency

There are no laws requiring the government to publicly disclose meetings or interactions with the TI, even when such interactions are necessary for regulation. Moreover, there are no rules mandating the disclosure or registration of TI entities, affiliated organizations, or individuals acting on their behalf, including lobbyists.

6. Conflict of Interest

There are no laws prohibiting contributions from the TI or its affiliates to political parties, candidates, or campaigns, and there are no requirements for full disclosure of such contributions. There are also no prohibitions preventing retired senior government officials from joining the TI. A number of TI leaders in Egypt have military or ministerial backgrounds, highlighting the industry's close ties with former government officials.



7. Preventive Measures

The government has not put in place procedures for disclosing records of interactions with the TI, such as agendas, attendees, minutes, or outcomes.

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

Eastern Company submits records on production, manufacture, market share, and revenues. However, expenditures related to philanthropy, lobbying, and other activities are not collected or disclosed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prohibit TI related CSR activities. Ban all CSR initiatives by tobacco companies, including healthcare, sports, and education sponsorships, as these serve as promotions that enhance their public image. Prohibit government officials from attending or endorsing tobacco related CSR events. Require full disclosure of all CSR expenditures by the TI to monitor potential policy influence.
2. Restrict unnecessary government–industry interactions. Limit engagement with the TI to strictly regulatory matters such as taxation and licensing. Prohibit senior officials from participating in industry sponsored events or receiving awards from the TI.
3. Require legal disclosure of all meetings between government officials and the TI, including agendas, attendees, and outcomes.
4. Increase awareness among government officials on Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC to identify, manage, and resist TI interference in policymaking.