

# Korea (Republic of)

Overall score:

50

**I. Industry participation in policy development:**

The government does not accept, support nor endorse policies or legislation drafted by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry.

The government does not include any representatives from the tobacco industry to be in the delegation to the COP and any other WHO FCTC related meetings.

**II. Tobacco industry-related CSR activities:** The CEO of Korea Tobacco and Ginseng Corporation (KT&G) was awarded the Presidential Commendation at the '2018 Legal Order Award' under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice. KT&G organised the Sangsang Summit to support CSR start-ups together with government officials, private organizations and CSR managers of corporations. Approximately, 400 professionals, including officials from government or government-related organizations, attended the Summit.

**III. Benefits given to the tobacco industry:** There is no record of new benefits given to the tobacco industry in 2018. The Tobacco Business Act allows tobacco manufacturing companies to take off 5 won per 20 cigarettes produced as a contribution towards the stabilization fund to support tobacco farmers. Furthermore, the Minister of Strategy and Finance may request KT&G to conduct community activities, such as programs related to public health, medical care and protection of the environment.

International travellers can bring 200 sticks of cigarettes or 50 cigars or 20 milligrams of e-cigarettes or 250 grams of other tobacco products.

**IV. Unnecessary interaction with the tobacco industry:** The government does not accept, endorse, nor enter into partnerships or agreements with the tobacco industry. However, KT&G won the Prime Minister's Award at the "Family-Friendly

Certification and Government Award Ceremony" for 2018. British American Tobacco Korea announced that it won the '\$300 Million Export Tower' at the 55 Trade Day ceremony held at COEX in Seoul in July. President Moon Jae In attended the event.

**V. Procedure for transparency measures:** The government does not officially disclose its meetings and interactions with the tobacco industry to the public, nor is there a system to register the representatives of the tobacco industry.

**VI. Avoiding conflicts of interest:** There is no prohibition on contributions from the tobacco industry for political campaigns. The code of conduct for public officials does not allow current government officials to hold positions in commercial businesses, and top-level government officials do not join KT&G upon their retirement.

**VII. Preventive measures:** The government has not put in place a separate code of conduct to protect the government administration from influence from the tobacco industry. The Code of Conduct for Public Officials (Presidential Decree) already prohibits officers from receiving any contributions from any individual or organization that will receive advantages or disadvantages as a direct result of decision or implementation of government policies or public projects (defined in Article 2.1(g)). According to the government report submitted to the COP, everyone involved or engaged in tobacco control related projects is asked to certify his/her conflict of interest with tobacco industry. A person who may affect directly/indirectly tobacco-related decision making, such as a member of Tobacco Health Warnings Committee, should sign the conflict of interest statement.

The tobacco industry is not required to submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and lobbying activities.



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## Recommendations

1. Tobacco related CSR activities must be banned.
2. There must be a register of all representatives of the tobacco industry entities, affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf.
3. The government should require the tobacco industry to submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and lobbying activities.
4. There must be a programme to create awareness among the government agencies on FCTC Article 5.3, especially departments such as the Ministries of Justice, Labour and Finance.