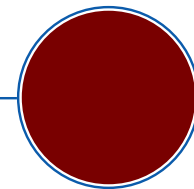


Switzerland



96

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

Switzerland has no barriers preventing the tobacco industry (TI) from influencing public health policymaking. Parliamentarians openly represent tobacco interests, lobbyists have direct access to federal buildings, and industry-linked individuals hold influential political positions. The TI also participates in official consultations and informal processes, sometimes drafting policy language later adopted by authorities. This has enabled the TI to shape legislation, delaying and weakening tobacco control measures.

2. Industry CSR Activities

Government agencies continue to endorse and participate in tobacco industry–led corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Japan Tobacco International (JTI) partners with public cultural institutions and is involved in clean-up campaigns supported by the Federal Office for the Environment. These partnerships allow the TI to improve its public image while maintaining influence with government agencies.

3. Benefits to the Industry

The government provides substantial subsidies to domestic tobacco growers (CHF 40,000 per hectare), while major tobacco firms benefit from opaque tax arrangements. Public pension funds also remain invested in tobacco stocks despite ethical concerns and pressure to divest.

4. Unnecessary Interaction

High-level officials regularly meet with tobacco companies at lobbying and social events, many of which are undisclosed. Examples include recurring closed-door meetings between Neuchâtel's government and Philip Morris International (PMI), as well as informal gatherings sponsored by industry-linked associations such as Economiesuisse and KS/CS. These interactions normalize the TI's presence in political networks and reinforce close ties between the industry and government officials.

5. Transparency

There is no requirement for government officials or parliamentarians to proactively disclose meetings with the TI. Existing transparency rules are weak, inconsistently applied, and largely dependent on voluntary self-reporting. This lack of obligation conceals government–industry relationships and enables undisclosed collaborations.

6. Conflict of Interest

Switzerland allows tobacco industry donations to political parties and campaigns, with only minimal disclosure. In 2023, PMI contributed directly to campaigns of the Swiss People's Party (SVP) and the Radical Liberal Party (FDP).

The country also lacks safeguards to prevent the “revolving door” between government and the TI. The absence of regulations on such conflicts of interest enables ongoing and often opaque links between industry and policymakers.



7. Preventive Measures

Switzerland has not implemented any specific safeguards under Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. There is no code of conduct for officials, no requirement for TI transparency, and no program to raise awareness of Article 5.3 principles across government. While some rules prohibit federal staff from accepting gifts above CHF 200, these do not apply to legislators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implement a comprehensive national tobacco control strategy aligned with the WHO FCTC. Supporting NGOs and projects that promote ratification will be essential, alongside collaboration between civil society, public health organizations, and the government.
2. Limit interactions between parliamentarians, government, or administration officials and the TI to only when strictly necessary.
3. Enforce transparent disclosure of all interactions between the TI and government officials, administrators, or members of parliament.
4. Remove economic and fiscal incentives for the TI.
5. Exclude the TI from both public health and environmental policymaking.
6. Accede to the WHO FCTC.