

ECL PRESS RELEASE

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IPAAC
INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP
FOR ACTION AGAINST CANCER



The Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) welcomes the entry into force today, 25 September 2018, of the WHO FCTC Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (the Protocol).

The Protocol has been ratified by 48 Parties, including the EU, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Germany, UK, France, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran.



The objective of this WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Protocol is the elimination of all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products. In order to prevent this illegal trade, the Protocol aims to secure the supply chain of tobacco products through a series of government measures. It requires the establishment of a global tracking and tracing regime within five years of the Protocol's entry into force, comprising national and regional tracking and tracing systems and a global information sharing point located. Other provisions to ensure control of the supply chain include for instance licensing and record-keeping requirements.



Mr. Luk Joossens
ECL Advocacy Officer
for Tobacco Control

“Over the last twenty years, we emphasized that enforceable measures to control the supply chain should be at the heart of the FCTC protocol on the illicit tobacco trade. These measures should facilitate investigations into smuggling operations and make the industry liable for controlling the supply chain. The global scope and multifaceted nature of the illicit tobacco trade requires a coordinated international response. The illicit trade protocol is an invaluable opportunity to address the issue and should commit FCTC parties to act both domestically and internationally.”

“We strongly encourage other Parties to ratify the Protocol without delay, to make the Protocol a truly international instrument to combat illicit tobacco trade at global level.”



Dr. Sakari Karjalainen
ECL President



If the global illicit trade were eliminated, governments would gain at least \$31 billion, and from 2030 onwards would save over 160,000 lives a year. Cigarette price would increase 3.9%, with a consequent fall in consumption of 2.0%. In just six years, over a million lives would be saved, the vast majority of which would be in middle and low income countries.