

Inside COP11

As COP11 nears its final day, key draft decisions remain under negotiation, with **Article 9** (Regulation of Tobacco Product Contents) and **Article 10** (Regulation of Tobacco Product Disclosures) taking centre stage.

COP11: Debate on Proposal to Eliminate Cigarette Filters Continues Friday

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According to recent reports, the Danish Presidency and the European Commission are attempting to push restrictions on new nicotine products, bypassing the European Union mandate agreed by Member States at the recent COREPER meeting in Brussels.

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EU's internal war over tobacco measures escalates at COP11

[Paywalled Article](#)



Outside COP11

Tsvetan Filev (NAT-2010): A Voice for Tobacco Growing Communities at COP11

At COP11 in Geneva, Tsvetan Filev of the National Association of Tobacco Growers (NAT-2010) emerged once again as a leading advocate for the farming communities in Europe, warning that proposed FCTC measures risk undermining the social and economic stability of rural regions that depend on tobacco cultivation.

"It is an honor and a great responsibility to defend the dignified work of all tobacco growers... We will not spare a single effort to protect their livelihood."

"We work in support of balanced, science-based policies that fully respect the legislative prerogatives of EU member states."

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Daily Highlights

- Greece stresses the need to protect the livelihoods of over 60,000 growers.

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- WHO expected to lose a quarter of its workforce – by June 2026 as it deals with budget cuts after the US withdrawal from the organisation in the beginning of 2025.

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- The WHO's 'Dirty Ashtray' Award has become a symbol of a broken system

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WHO FCTC 20th Anniversary

From COP6 to COP7: Rising Misinformation on Tobacco Farming Issues

COP6 agenda key points

Articles 9&10 Regulations of Content and Emission

COP6 revisited progress on:

- Testing and measuring cigarette contents/emissions
- Disclosure of product information by manufacturers
- Possible future global standards on ingredients

Disagreements persisted over feasibility and scientific bases for uniform standards.

What Leaf-Content Regulation Would Mean for a Tobacco Grower:

- Loss of viable varieties
- Higher production costs
- Reduced market access
- Threats to livelihoods and national economies

As the anti-tobacco narrative intensified, a growing set of **claims about the socio-environmental and economic harms of tobacco growing** began circulating—often without scientific evidence or with generalizations that ignored the realities of tobacco-dependent communities. At this stage, **almost anything could be asserted about tobacco farming**, regardless of data quality or context.

In response, the ITGA launched its “[Myth vs Fact](#)” **campaign**, designed to correct misinformation with evidence-based analysis and the lived experience of growers. The campaign focused on key areas where myths had become especially widespread:

- **Viable Alternatives to Tobacco**
- **Child Labour in Tobacco Growing**
- **Tobacco Growing and Food Security**
- **Health and Safety Risks of Tobacco Growing**
- **Environmental Impact**

Through this initiative, ITGA sought to **bring balance, scientific grounding, and the growers' perspective** back into discussions increasingly dominated by one-sided or inaccurate assertions.

WHO FCTC 20th Anniversary



During **COP6** and **COP7**, restrictions surrounding COP meetings intensified significantly. What began with the **cancellation of all public sessions** soon evolved into broader limitations: **controlled access to areas around the meeting venues**, tighter movement restrictions, and in several instances even the **expulsion of media representatives** from the COP premises. These measures marked a notable shift toward increased opacity in the COP process and raised growing concerns about transparency, stakeholder access, and the ability of observers to follow negotiations.