

## Inside COP11

Forward-looking tobacco control measures are currently at the spotlight. Follow the documents that inform the official decisions:

**Report by the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges to inform the work of the Expert Group on Forward-looking Tobacco Control Measures**

*Background paper prepared by the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, in its capacity as the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges, to inform the work of the Expert Group on Forward-looking Tobacco Control Measures (in relation to Article 2.1 of the WHO FCTC)*

[Full Report](#)

**Compilation of information briefs on forward-looking tobacco control measures developed by the experts**

*Expert Group on Forward-looking Tobacco Control Measures (in relation to Article 2.1 of the WHO FCTC)*

[Full Report](#)

## Outside COP11

### ITGA President José Javier Aranda Meets with Latin American Ambassadors

Since the beginning of the week, ITGA President José Javier Aranda has held meetings with ambassadors from several Latin American countries to highlight the challenges facing tobacco growers. He underscored the lack of representation of the most vulnerable segment of the supply chain at WHO FCTC COP11 and expressed concern over the continued disregard for the socio-economic realities in major tobacco-growing nations.

### Poland Defends Its Growers While Brazil Looks the Other Way

Ahead of COP11, Polish tobacco farmers held a major protest in Warsaw after recommendations to phase out support for tobacco cultivation, stressing that such cuts would devastate the 30,000 families who depend on the crop. Farmers also highlighted the hypocrisy of reducing European production only to replace it with imports. In Geneva, Poland's delegation reinforced these concerns with strong statements defending growers and calling for balanced policymaking. In stark contrast, Brazil—where more than 133,000 farming families rely on tobacco—has sent one of the most aggressively anti-tobacco delegations, showing little regard for the livelihoods at stake in its own domestic sector.

Romeu Schneider, Afubra Vice President: "We strongly oppose the current approach of the Brazilian government regarding tobacco policy. Brazil should never have ratified the FCTC, as it compromises national sovereignty and threatens Brazil's tobacco market, which is valued for its quality and volume and has promoted many social and environmental initiatives in rural communities. Tobacco is economically and financially crucial for a developing country like Brazil, yet current policies risk ceding this market to other countries. These measures are deeply concerning and place Brazilian producers in a difficult position, prompting strong indignation from our side."



Tobacco Growers Protest in Warsaw, Poland

## Daily Highlights

•Brazilian parliamentarians, mayors, growers and industry representatives, and regional press continue their sessions in the Brazilian Permanent Representation. Officials noted that while **parliamentarians could be listed as observers in future COPs**, the deadline for this event has passed. Authorities emphasized that proposals on new nicotine products and producer alternatives are recommendations, not binding mandates, and decisions account for national realities. Despite exclusion from plenary sessions, the group continues to monitor COP11 and advocate that Brazil's official delegation uphold the 2005 interpretative declaration ensuring that tobacco control policies do not harm legally regulated domestic production.

[Read Release](#)

•European Union Public Health MEPs Conclude Visit to WHO Tobacco Control Conference

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•NGOs push EU countries for last-minute common stance on tobacco rules

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## WHO FCTC 20th Anniversary

### COP5: The lack of agricultural expertise led to proposals completely detached from reality

The Convention policy recommendations at COP5 included:

- Restricting production by regulating the seasons in which tobacco can be grown.
- Reducing the area allocated for tobacco farming.
- Banning technical support for tobacco farmers.
- Dismantling all bodies connecting growers with governments.
- Banning minimum support prices and leaf auctions.

For ITGA, this was mainly a consequence of the absence of agriculture and other expertise among the proposals' authors. As a result, the whole set of policy recommendations were sent back and the COP recognised the need to consult broadly and involve relevant Governmental agencies and NGOs in the future research of developing alternatives to tobacco, should the demand decline sometime in the future. ITGA reiterated its offer for cooperation and assistance considering that any process to regulate the production of tobacco, should be conducted with the full involvement of the representative bodies of growers.

But avoiding the harmful consequences of these recommendations required significant effort and resources from ITGA and its growers' associations; nothing was accepted at face value.

To counter potentially harmful policy recommendations, ITGA and its growers' associations undertook significant mobilization efforts. Key actions included:

**Regional forums:** Organized two Asian Tobacco Forums (Malaysia and Philippines) with participation from nine member countries to raise awareness and build alignment.

**Oriental tobacco coordination:** Convened the first Oriental Tobacco Forum to align the five main oriental tobacco countries.

**Official declarations:** Facilitated regional declarations opposing the proposed policies.

**Advocacy campaigns:** Supported petitions from growers and associations to governments, highlighting the realities of tobacco cultivation and risks of the recommendations.

**Global recognition:** Celebrated the first World Tobacco Growers' Day on October 28th.

**Ongoing coordination:** Maintained regional and global engagement through meetings and forums in major tobacco-growing areas.



## Gallery of ITGA Activities throughout 2012



ITGA parallel conference at COP5 Korea



ITGA Asia Tobacco Forum - Kuala Lumpur

www.tobaccoleaf.org

**ITGA**  
International Tobacco Growers' Association

**Oriental Tobacco Forum 2012**

**14 September 2012**  
Arka Hotel, Skopje, Macedonia

Пријавување за учество на форумот се врши на следната адреса: [itga@tobaccoleaf.org](mailto:itga@tobaccoleaf.org) или на тел.: +351 272 325901

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