The future of tobacco growing in the EU - threats and challenges

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✓ Union Internationale des Producteurs de Tabac was founded in 1952. As of 2020 the Secretariat is based in Krakow, Poland.
✓ Represents all of the tobacco farmers in the EU. Members are the EU countries where tobacco is grown.
✓ The aim is to represent the interests of EU tobacco growers to the tobacco industry, tobacco processing and public authorities.
✓ Represents 40,000 EU tobacco growers and nearly 150 thousand tons of EU tobacco production.
✓ The main goal is to stabilize the tobacco cultivation in the EU, to stop the negative downward trends in cultivation and to increase the profitability of raw tobacco production.
The current situation of the tobacco growing sector in the EU

✓ 250,000 growers, families and seasonal workers.
✓ Located mostly in less economically developed regions of EU with no viable economic alternatives to tobacco growing; too difficult to replace tobacco with another crop or non-agriculture activities.
✓ Regions characterized by high rate of unemployment; most of the cultivation is done by small family farms.
✓ Examples of such regions: Extramadura region in Spain, or the Lublin region in Poland.
✓ Top quality European tobacco, but with high production costs, causing very low profitability.
✓ Constant attacks by public authorities, based on the principle of destroying everything related to the word "tobacco".
Why is tobacco growing so important for Europe?

✓ Securing income for farmers, real impact on reducing unemployment.
✓ The employment of women and unqualified people in the production of raw tobacco.
✓ Essential of tobacco cultivation for the economic development of the region in which it is grown. Tobacco growing affects the sustainable development and wealth of the region in which it occurs contributing to its revenue and stable economic development.
✓ The soils used for tobacco do not have much adaptability for other crops.
✓ Agricultural alternatives to tobacco are very limited.
Comparison of the EU leaf tobacco production 2009 and 2019 – falling trends

- Germany: 284,496 tones in 2009, 139,536 tones in 2019
- Greece: 28,496 tones in 2009, 13,936 tones in 2019
- Spain: 46,886 tones in 2009, 24,606 tones in 2019
- Italy: 46,886 tones in 2009, 24,606 tones in 2019
- Poland: 46,886 tones in 2009, 24,606 tones in 2019
- Hungary: 4,686 tones in 2009, 2,460 tones in 2019
- Bulgaria: 46,886 tones in 2009, 24,606 tones in 2019
- France: 4,686 tones in 2009, 2,460 tones in 2019
- Switzerland: negligible in 2009 and 2019
- Portugal: negligible in 2009 and 2019
General reasons for the decline in the volume of tobacco growing in the EU

✓ Higher cost of tobacco production comparing to the countries outside Europe.
✓ Tobacco is under negative pressure and subject to constant ideological attacks coming from public authorities and non-governmental organizations.
✓ Economic and social aspects affecting the reduction of tobacco cultivation in the EU: “old” aging tobacco growers, progressive lack of seasonal labor force, emergence of economic alternatives and, finally, increasing costs of tobacco production.
✓ Abandoning tobacco and implementing alternative crops.
✓ Insufficient commitment of the tobacco industry for the EU production (price, volume etc.).
✓ Big tobacco manufacturers changing their purchasing policy and reducing orders for European tobacco.
What are the treats to EU tobacco growing

✓ Consistent blocking of financial support for tobacco growers under the CAP.
✓ Tightening the pro-health policy and indirectly influencing the volumen of the crop.
✓ Tobacco manufacturers - gradual reduction of the orders in the EU.
✓ WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: level of nicotine, alternatives to tobacco growing, attacks on the social and environmental sustainability, no representation of the sector in the discussions etc.
✓ Tobacco Product Directive – ingredients, advertising etc.
✓ Illicit trade – illegal tobacco.
What is the future and what challenges for tobacco growing in the EU?

✓ Struggle to stabilize the cultivation and stop the downward trend in tobacco cultivation.
✓ Improving our adaptation to the market (responsible production: ALP, GAP and STP programms; niche markets, new products etc.).
✓ New Tobacco Products - smokeless products
  Opportunity for the Future for Tobacco Growing!
✓ Continuing dialogue with our tobacco industry partners.
✓ Being a proactive force playing an important part in the debates of International and European organizations.
Addressing challenges

We are the part of the global tobacco growers family

We are UNITED, STRONG and FOCUS on the future of European Tobacco growing sector

Both UNITAB and ELTI will help meet the challenges facing European tobacco growing and secure a future for tobacco farmers!

UNITAB – European Association of Tobacco Growers is strong and powerfull organization. Together we have a chan and we will use it!

Thanks!  Gracias!  Obrigado!