



UNITAB

José Manuel Barroso
 President of the European Commission
 Rue de la Loi, 200.
 B-1049 Brussels. Belgium

CC. commissioners Ciolos, Andor, Dalli.

Paris, November 9th

ref:fv101104

Dear President Barroso,

The Europe 2020 Strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is a positive move to recover from the crisis and is based on the objectives of competitiveness, productivity and social cohesion.

The International Union of Tobacco Growers (UNITAB), on behalf of 90.000 European tobacco growers and 400.000 seasonal workers, would like to draw your attention to the fact that the upcoming FCTC Conference of the Parties (November 15-20, 2010) represents a threat to the Europe 2020 Strategy goals.

The draft guidelines on articles 9 & 10 of the Convention propose to *prohibit or restrict the use of additives* in cigarettes, what can lead to the abandonment of tobacco growing in the EU, without any improvement whatsoever of the public health, while alternative solutions exist to meet public health protection objectives without destroying employment on rural areas, like targeted measures used in some Member States like France. I therefore ask you to co-ordinate the EU position taking into account the interests of all the actors.

In support of this purpose, I keep at your disposal more than 10.000 petitions signed by European tobacco growers and workers. Please also note that many MEPs, including Paolo de Castro, president of Agriculture Commission, support our action on this issue

The WHO non-compulsory guidelines have already served as an inspiration for the measures currently being studied by DG SANCO in order to review the Tobacco Product Directive (2001/37/EC). If adopted, the sustainability of several regions and of hundreds of thousands of workers will be put in danger. In this regard, I kindly ask you to meet UNITAB at your best convenience, together with commissioners Ciolos, Andor and Dalli, in order to approach in a more balanced way to such a multifaceted subject.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

CABINET DU PRESIDENT										
PRES	JL	FFM	AJC	N'						
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François Vedel
 Secretary General UNITAB

