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Press Release

The City of Hamburg's Representation's summer party in Berlin is again co-financed by tobacco companies

Hamburg's Representation's summer party in Berlin, which took place on September 4th, was made possible by an astonishingly large number of sponsors – among them the tobacco giants Reemtsma and British American Tobacco (BAT). The two companies spent a total sum of 5.000 Euros, as Forum Rauchfrei was told by a staff member in the city's Representation. In return they were allowed to put up booths at the party. A delegate of BAT was bid welcome by the First Mayor of Hamburg, Olaf Scholz.

“In doing this Hamburg's Representation disregards the guidelines to the law on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,” criticises Johannes Spatz, one of Forum Rauchfrei's spokesmen. The guidelines are very clear with regard to their demands. Governments “should not allow any official or employee of government or of any semi/quasi-governmental body to accept payments, gifts or services, monetary or inkind, from the tobacco industry”.

Spatz finds it particularly outrageous, that the tobacco companies are openly referred to as long-standing partners of the city's Representation. Thus the aims of the law on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, to protect the state from tobacco industry interference, could not be reached.

Forum Rauchfrei is strongly asking of the First Mayor of Hamburg no longer to disregard the guidelines to the law on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, but to take the law seriously and to further its implementation.