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## Press Release

### **Forum Rauchfrei is still permitted to shed light on tobacco trade fair on intertabac.org website – Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH failed in attempted censorship before international arbitration panel**

Attempts of the Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH to prevent criticism of their organizing tobacco trade fairs have come to naught. The trade fair company had brought proceedings against Johannes Spatz, speaker of Forum Rauchfrei (forum smokefree), because he had registered the name intertabac.org for the protest campaign against the organization of tobacco trade fairs. Visitors of the domain intertabac.org are immediately directed to the Dortmund kills website. There they will find information about the course of the campaign which led to the prevention of the tobacco trade fair Inter-tabac ASIA. On May 27<sup>th</sup> 2014, the arbitration panel of the UN organization for intellectual property (WIPO) stated, that this practice was legitimate with the result that the complaint was denied.

“Thus the attempt to order me to be quiet has failed,” Johannes Spatz says. In their complaint against Forum Rauchfrei and himself before WIPO the Westfalahallen had pressed every button and had even accused Johannes Spatz of trying to make money for himself out of having registered the website.

In the eyes of Forum Rauchfrei this aggressive course of action of the Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH can be explained by their having been forced to cancel the scheduled tobacco trade fair Inter-tabac ASIA 2014 on Bali, Indonesia in February of this year on short notice. In fact this was stated by the city-owned company in their complaint before WIPO, in which they declared that the Inter-tabac ASIA was cancelled “due to massive protests initiated by the Respondent.”

Forum Rauchfrei will not let itself be inhibited and sees itself strengthened in its criticism of the Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH by the decision of the UN organization, in which 187 states are represented. The promotion of the sale of tobacco by the city of Dortmund is morally reprehensible and violates the law on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Johannes Spatz says. Because of this Forum Rauchfrei is already protesting against the tobacco trade fair “Inter-tabac Dortmund” scheduled for September 2014.