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Press Release

Following the Cancellation of a Tobacco Trade Fair in Singapore Forum Rauchfrei Aims at Stopping the Planned Tobacco Trade Fair Inter-tabac in Dortmund

The tobacco trade fair World Tobacco Asia in Singapore has been cancelled. The trade magazine Tobacco Journal states that the Singapore government had exerted pressure on the organizer as reason for this. The organizer of the trade fair therefore deemed it appropriate to make an early decision instead of being left with doubts about its safety and positive completion.

World Tobacco Asia was first to be held in Bali in September, but was then moved to Jakarta to be finally announced for Singapore for November 2014. After this announcement Forum Rauchfrei (Forum Smokefree) had written to Singapore's Minister of Health, appealing to him to stop this trade fair, and has now congratulated him on doing so.

The cancellation of World Tobacco Asia signifies a severe defeat for the tobacco industry, especially as in February the tobacco trade fair Inter-tabac ASIA on the island of Bali had been stopped very shortly before its planned beginning. In contrast to World Tobacco Asia, which was to be organized by a private sector company, Inter-tabac ASIA was to be carried through by a city-owned company from Germany, the Westfalenhallen Dortmund GmbH. Forum Rauchfrei has played a major part in stopping the tobacco trade fair in Bali.

Johannes Spatz, spokesman of Forum Rauchfrei, is speaking of a domino-effect. Tobacco trade fairs had been cancelled in Istanbul and Moscow in 2013 and this year in Bali and now in Singapore. "Tobacco trade fairs won't find their place in this world anymore," Spatz says. He thinks the prospects for stopping the planned Inter-tabac in Dortmund in September are good, based on a strong protest movement, which Forum Rauchfrei is about to initiate. According to the organizer, Inter-tabac is the worldwide leading specialist trade fair for tobacco goods and smokers' requirements.