



« Le droit de respirer un air de qualité non pollué par les émanations toxiques du tabac est aussi légitime que celui de disposer d'une eau potable. »

The Honorable Ullrich Sierau
Mayor of Dortmund
Friedensplatz 1
44135 Dortmund
Germany

OPEN LETTER

Geneva, 10 January 2014

Dear Mayor Sierau,

Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH has announced the organization of *Inter-tabac Asia 2014* from February 27th to 28th in Indonesia. Such a tobacco trade fair, which aims at furthering the sale of tobacco products, will contribute to propagate and aggravate the tobacco epidemic, with its “devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences” (according to Article 3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control – WHO/FCTC – a legally binding international treaty ratified by Germany). As the sole owner of *Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH*, the city of Dortmund put its international reputation in jeopardy by accepting that its name and prestige be used for the promotion of a product which, according to the World Health Organization, kills six million people every year (with 260'000 of those deaths occurring in Indonesia).

In September 2011, the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases adopted unanimously a *Political Declaration* which recognized “**the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health.**” The Guidelines on the application of Article 5.3 of the WHO/FCTC emphasize the following fundamental principle: “Principle 1: **There is a fundamental and irreconcilable conflict between the tobacco industry’s interests and public health policy interests**” and “Principle 4: **Because their products are lethal, the tobacco industry should not be granted incentives to establish or run their businesses.** Any preferential treatment of the tobacco industry would be in conflict with tobacco control policy.”

By supporting the Indonesian tobacco trade fair, through *Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH*, in close cooperation with tobacco companies, the city of Dortmund violates these fundamental principles and is in breach of the obligations emanating from the tobacco treaty. Furthermore, by aligning itself with the interests of the tobacco industry, the city of Dortmund clearly takes a stand **against public health.**

On behalf of my association, OxyRomandie, a Swiss NGO dedicated to public health and tobacco control, I respectfully ask you to put an end to this anomaly by cancelling *Inter-tabac Asia 2014* in Indonesia. I further should like to urge you to restore the respectability of the city of Dortmund by ensuring that *Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH* will not organize any tobacco-related trade fairs in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal A. Diethelm, President