

June 23, 2020

Dear Mayor Müller,

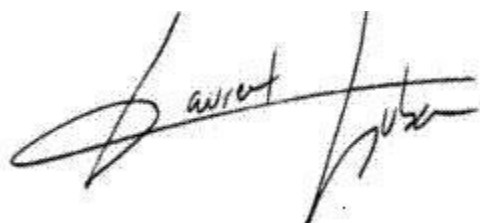
It has come to our attention that the Berlin government has accepted in-kind donations from Philip Morris International during the coronavirus pandemic. We are writing to respectfully but strongly urge you to end Berlin's use of PMI's resources immediately. The acceptance of charity from the tobacco industry is highly unethical and, arguably, illegal.

Germany is party to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Article 5.3 and its official Guidelines forbids governmental interaction with the tobacco industry beyond what is necessary for regulation.

The tobacco industry has a long history of so-called corporate social responsibility schemes. These are not meant as charity but are a form of marketing for the industry, particularly in jurisdictions that have banned more traditional marketing. You can be sure PMI will spend more money highlighting its "donation" to Berlin than the resources are actually worth.

The tobacco industry is the leading cause of preventable death in the world. There is no amount of charity that can make up for the catastrophe their products cause every day.

Best Regards,



Laurent Huber
Executive Director
Action on Smoking and Health