

MEETING OF MEWG COMPANY SCIENTISTS
TO ADDRESS THE MAXIMUM CONSTITUENTS LIMITS (MCL) ISSUE

London, Thursday August 7, 1986

DRAFT MINUTES

Participants:

Mr. H.F. Dymond	Research & Development Centre, BAT (UK & Export), Southampton
Dr. D.J. MacKenzie	Development Coordinator, R & D Division, Gallaher Ltd., London
Dr. G. Woodman	General Manager, Scientific Liaison, Imperial Tobacco, Bristol
Dr. H. Reif	Principal Scientist, Fabriques de Tabac Réunies, Neuchâtel
Mr. K. Ware	Director Planning, Philip Morris, Lausanne
Dr. O. Stuhl	Research & Development, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Köln
Dr. D. Rowland	Principal Scientist, Research & Development Services, Rothmans International, Basildon
* Mr. H.E. Grice	Executive Director, Tobacco Advisory Council, London
Mr. R.M. Corner	Chairman, MEWG

* a.m. only

Apologies

Dr. H. Gaisch	Fabriques de Tabac Réunies, Neuchâtel
Mr. G. Stungis	Brown & Williamson, Louisville
Mr. R.W.M. Howes	on behalf of a scientific representative from Reemtsma

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Background

1. All members had received the Background Dossier which included:
 - the Brief from the MEWG members
 - the Argumentation currently being used on the MCL issue extracted from submissions made
 - other relevant documents.

2. The Chairman confirmed the basic situation:
 - the Resolution requiring MCLs of 12 & 0.8 effective 1.1.87 had been adopted by the GCC Health Ministers Council January 5-8, 1986;
 - a letter to Health Ministers of GCC States urging implementation had been sent by Dr. Ashi January 1986;
 - both Saudi and Bahrain had already moved and SASO were reported to be expected to issue the new Cigarette Specification including MCLs of 12 & 0.8 around August 23;
 - lobbying activities had already taken place in Saudi and Bahrain and were underway in the other States. Three of the companies had agreed to undertake the role of coordinators of activity in each of the 6 GCC States;
 - effective date was expected to now be 1.7.87 and possibly later. Companies would continue to market at current MCLs after 1.1.87.

Major lines of argument

3. The following were noted:
 - 3.1 The scientists agreed with the view that it was difficult to argue against MCLs as such when they already exist in certain countries. Therefore a number of other aspects of the issue were discussed.

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3.2 The scientific evidence concerning nicotine was discussed and it was stressed that it has not been proven that nicotine has adverse health effects.

3.3 The scientists stressed that in most European countries the mean constituent levels lie between 13 and 15 mg of "tar" and 0.8 and 1 mg of nicotine and the brands most preferred by consumers are in these ranges.

Agreed actions

4. The following actions were agreed for the immediate and for the longer term:

Argumenation Against Reductions in MCLs

- 4.1 In answer to the request from MEWG members for a basic common brief or "hymn sheet" which all members could draw from to ensure all were driving in the same direction in their own individual efforts, Mr. H. Dymond agreed to adapt the BAT discussion paper in the light of the discussions.
- 4.2 The revised paper would aim to provide the best argumen-tation following an order of priority as discussed.
- 4.3 The following action/timing schedule was agreed:
- Mr. Dymond said he would aim to produce his draft in two weeks (Friday August 22).
 - He will send a copy to each of the scientists present, who will review it and discuss it with their MEWG members and send comments back to him.

Note: For B & W copies will be sent to W.L. Telling in Brussels and to G. Stungis in Louisville. For Reemtsma, it will be sent to R. Howes in Nicosia. The Chairman will ask R. Howes to advise H. Dymond the name of the scientist to whom it should be sent in Hamburg.

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- H. Dymond will then prepare the final version and circulate to all.

Arguments Against Reductions in Nicotine

- 4.4 Dr. Rowland agreed to prepare an industry paper on this subject together with references to the scientific literature.
- 4.5 It was expected that this would be ready for circulation to the scientific group and MEWG members by the end of October.

Further Points for Consideration

- 5. During the discussions the following points were also made for consideration by MEWG members.
 - 5.1 Check whether any information exists on the percentage of smokers in GCC States who do not inhale.
 - 5.2 List the tobacco-type products that are consumed in the region and which are not covered by the current legislation.
 - 5.3 Investigate possible media opportunities.
 - 5.4 Evaluate whether, in addition to the work which is being done by the scientists individually on behalf of their companies, there would be additional benefits from having a formalized scientific group which could dialogue with scientists and medical people in the Gulf.

International Dimension

- 6. The view was also expressed that whereas the objective of this meeting was to address this MCL issue in relation to the GCC countries, it should be considered whether this should not be being done on a far wider basis.

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General

7. The Chairman thanked the scientists on behalf of the MEWG members for coming together and the view was expressed that a further meeting might take place jointly with the Group.
8. The Chairman also thanked the TAC for making available their facilities for the meeting.

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