

**From:** [deleted as privacy information] (ENTR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 5:13 PM  
**To:** [deleted as privacy information] (ENTR)  
**Cc:** [deleted as privacy information] (ENTR)  
**Subject:** Meeting with cigars producers

Dear all,

FYI a flash report on today meeting with ECMA (European Cigar Manufacturers Association).

[deleted as privacy information]

Participants ENTR [deleted as privacy information]

Participants ECMA: [deleted as privacy information]

Discussions focused on the forthcoming revision of the Directive on Tobacco Products. ECMA participated to the open consultation launched by SANCO and underlined that while they agree on some of proposals (reporting and registration of ingredients) they fear that other proposals (mandatory picture warnings, plain or generic packaging) could have a disproportionate negative effect on their members. Due to the specificity of cigars production (differences in the size of the products and different packaging used by different producers) the costs for complying with the possible new requirements could be very high. So they would like that in case the more restrictive rules are chosen specific and lower requirements are granted to cigars producers.

At this stage we cannot say if the new Directive will have such a negative effect as DG SANCO is working on the IA. We do not know which options will be chosen and if they will be compulsory or not for MS. Finally SANCO could decide to introduce exemptions or lighter requirements for cigars and other non-cigarettes products.

They mentioned that they have already approached SANCO and ENTR sectoral unit [deleted as privacy information] to express their concerns.