

EU LOBBYING NEWS | 3. QUARTER 2010

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I. EU signals ban on the addiction-enhancing additives for tobacco

On 6 July 2010, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the addiction-enhancing additives for tobacco. Current EU rules on tobacco date from the early 1990s and are aimed mainly and primarily at promoting smoke-free environments in the European Union (EU). A number of EU health and safety at work directives defined certain restrictions on smoking at work. These directives were complemented by Council Resolutions and Recommendations, which called on Member States to provide protection from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. In addition, an EU regulation on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco products laid down maximum tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide yields for cigarettes released for free circulation in the Member States.

The current consultation aims to assess the role of additives in tobacco products and the role of design features and technical characteristics in the attractiveness and addictiveness of tobacco products. Furthermore, the consultation aims to determine the criteria based on which an additive

can be classified as an addictive or an attractive substance. Finally, it will evaluate the methods currently used to examine addictiveness and attractiveness of additives in tobacco products.

Reactions from consumers, industry stakeholders and policy experts will help the Commission in preparing a proposal on providing a common list of ingredients authorised for tobacco products, which will also include their addictiveness. An immediate ban on all additives that are addiction-enhancing is expected to be included in the Commission proposal. The period of consultation closes on 5 September 2010.

Alber & Geiger provides several experts in this area and we can help you in following and partaking in this consultation process and represent your interests in the following legislative process.

II. Commission for more freedom on GMO cultivation

The European Commission presented on 13 July 2010 two proposals aimed at giving the Member States more autonomy to restrict the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The

proposal will allow EU countries more freedom to ban cultivation on their territory while retaining an EU-wide authorization system. The new proposals will finally accommodate the positions of the countries that support GMOs and those opposed to their cultivation. The plans would allow large-scale commercial planting in pro-GM countries, while at the same time legally endorsing existing GM bans in other countries. Furthermore, the draft new texts also stress that member states should adopt “a more positive stance” on GMO authorization.

If approved, the proposal is expected to significantly affect biotechnology companies, farmers, producers and importers of GM seeds and consumers and wider public who receive contradictory messages as concerns the safety for human and animal health and the environment of GM crops.

Alber & Geiger has high – level experience in the field of European decision-making regarding agribusiness and we are prepared to channel your interests successfully to the relevant decision-makers.



the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. This directive was agreed in 1985 and it harmonized the practices to take into consideration environmental issues in a more rigorous and transparent manner. The objective of this public consultation is to seek the views of individuals, non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) and national administrations on the application and effectiveness of the EIA Directive. Moreover, the consultation aims to examine the need to amend the EIA Directive and to determine the possible policy options for review and the areas to be improved. The consultation will assist the European Commission in the decision-making process. The period of consultation closes on 24 September 2010.

Due to the importance of this issue in developing EU policy, stakeholders are encouraged to join the process.

III. Intellectual Property Protection Enforcement in Third Countries

The European Commission has recently launched a survey on the protection and enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in third countries, and is looking for input from EU companies and other involved stakeholders. The survey is linked to the Strategy for the Enforcement of IPRs in third countries, which was adopted in 2004 by the European Commission. The purposes of the EU IPR strategy and survey are to reduce the level of IPR infringements outside the borders of the European Union. The focus will be on countries where IPR infringements have reached worrying proportions and in those non-EU countries, which are the most relevant to the EU from a trade policy perspective.

The replies to the questions will be taken into consideration in order to allow the Directorate General for Trade to review its priorities in that area. Together with other sources of input, the survey will allow the Commission to update its list of "priority countries". The survey will close on 31 October 2010.

Alber & Geiger is in a position to assist interested parties in effectively communicating their interests and concerns directly to the relevant decision makers within the EU Commission.

IV. EU to review the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive

The Commission has launched - on 28 June 2010 - a public consultation on the review of

V. Commission proposal to phase out subsidies for hard coal

On 20 July 2010 the European Commission agreed on a proposal to phase out subsidies for hard coal by 2014. The current coal regulation, which allows sector-specific state subsidies for hard coal, is set to expire on 31 December 2010. The Commission proposal is an ambitious reform and offers hard-coal mines a choice of coming off subsidies or agreeing to closure.

Europe's coal industry has been declining since the 1950s but an end to subsidies poses the threat of massive job losses in an industry that directly employs 42,000 people across the EU. Those who want to see the EU take a leading role in combating climate change have welcomed the proposal. However, the proposal is expected to be controversial once it reaches the Council for approval because there are sharp differences among Member States.

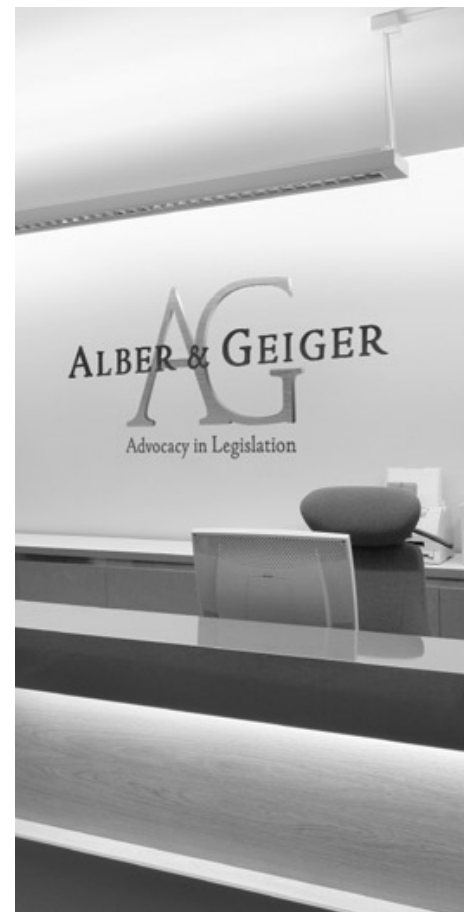
Alber & Geiger provides distinguished lobbying and political support services in this sector and is prepared to assist you in communicating and implementing your company's interests in Europe.

VI. Corporate governance in financial institutions

On 3 June 2010, the Commission launched a public consultation on corporate governance in financial institutions and remuneration policies. The consultation, which is part of the "Green paper on corporate governance in financial

institutions", seeks the views of all involved stakeholders. The aim of the consultation is to improve and tackle some of the weaknesses in corporate governance mechanisms in financial institutions that were evidenced by the recent financial turmoil. The consultation will be followed by a Commission proposal, which could introduce a binding obligation for financial institutions to have in place sound remuneration policies, and should focus on the supervisory review in order to ensure that financial institutions comply with these requirements. The proposal will affect all actors in the financial industry. The period of consultations closes on 1 September 2010.

If your company needs high - profile lobbying support in Brussels, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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