

The first year of the Joint Action on Tobacco Control

"Reporting, assessing and regulating tobacco ingredients are important aspects of an effective and comprehensive tobacco control policy which contributes to the broad objective of promoting good health, reducing tobacco related disease and deliver real benefits to citizens." (EU Health Programme – Work Programme 2016)

The Joint Action on Tobacco Control (JATC) was launched in October 2017. This comprehensive EU funded project aims to provide support for the implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD)* across the 28 EU Member States and to improve the protection of EU Public Health.

The TPD is a complex legislative document that lays down the rules governing the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products, while also supporting the functioning of the internal market of tobacco products in the EU. The JATC addresses the issue of tobacco product monitoring at an EU wide level – an activity that would be impossible to be done by one, or a few EU MS by themselves.

This 36-month project constitutes of 9 Work Packages and involves 30 Partners and additional 13 Collaborating Partners, who have an observing and counseling role. Work packages 1-4 have a horizontal structure within the project, aiming at the internal organization, information dissemination and integration of the final outcomes into national policies, while the remaining core work packages target on other functional subjects on tobacco control between member states.

*Directive 2014/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products and repealing Directive 2001/37/EC



The kick-off meeting of the Joint Action on Tobacco Control

The JATC Kick-off Meeting took place in Athens, on December 12-13, 2017. During the meeting, 70 participants from all over Europe, including representatives from the European Commission DG SANTE and CHAFAEA had the chance to meet in person for the first time and commence a very productive collaboration in light of the upcoming demanding project's tasks.

The official JATC opening ceremony was held at the historic Zappeion Megaron, during which H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Prokopios Pavlopoulos, declared his support towards tobacco control and prevention, emphasizing his concern about the tobacco addiction, particularly in the case of young people. The burning issue of tobacco control and the significance of this European project also attracted the attention of media representatives, who provided extensive coverage through national press.

During the meeting, all work package leaders presented their 3-year action plan and shared ideas and valuable experience on how to best serve the project's aims.

Hellenic Cancer Society, thank you for hosting us!



X. Moussaas - Keynote Speaker, P. Behrakis - JATC Coordinator, H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Prokopios Pavlopoulos holding the Antikythera Mechanism, M. Ferenc - DG SANTE, E. Filopoulou - President of the Hellenic Cancer Society, at the JATC kick-off meeting

Joint Action on Tobacco Control – Interim Meeting

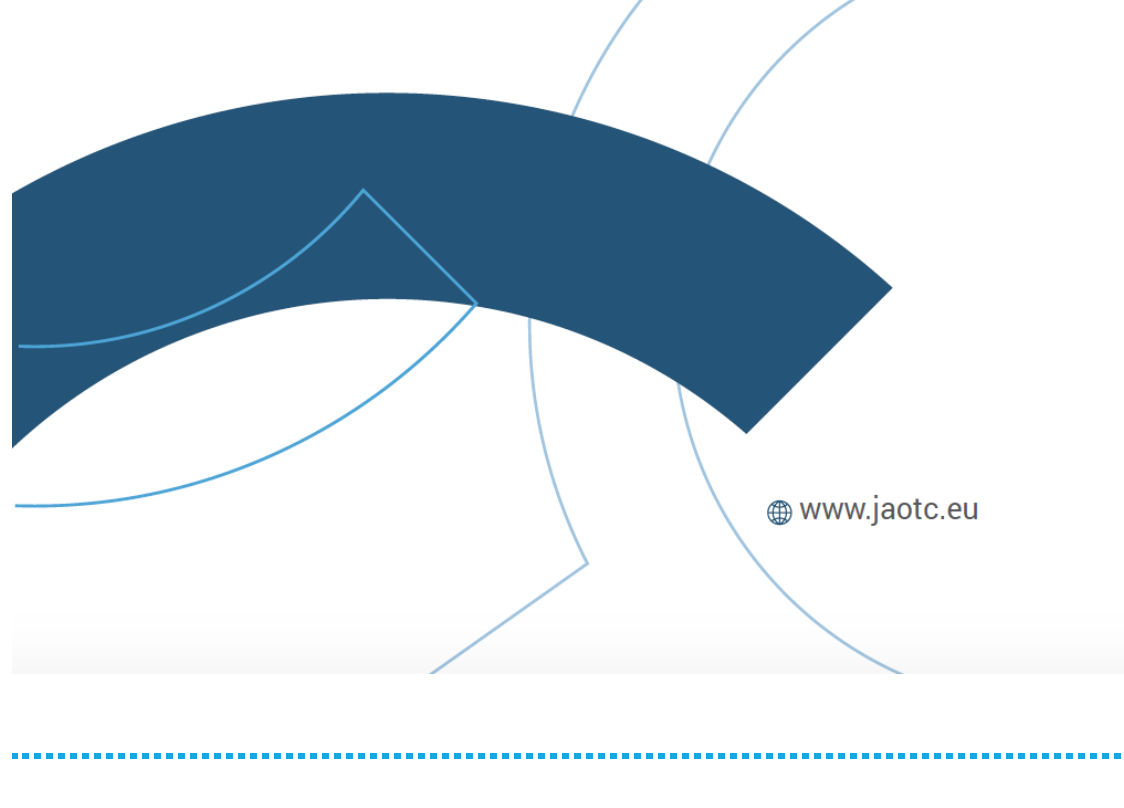
More than 60 JATC participants attended the 1st Interim Meeting of JATC that took place in Brussels on February 6-7, 2019 with the attendance of member of the Subgroup on Ingredients and Composition of Tobacco and Related Products from various EU MS and officers of DG SANTE and CHAFAEA.

The main objectives accomplished during the meeting:

- To provide an update on the tasks performed, the milestones and key deliverables in the presence of regulators from the Member States;
- To update on the upcoming work and to plan the actions of the next 12 months;
- To facilitate interaction between JATC partners and the members of the Expert Subgroup on Ingredients.

Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, participated at the opening session, during which he stressed importance of the JATC, better application of EU law, and importance of the implementation of new measures concerning product composition that were introduced by the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD).

[Read the Commissioner's Speech, published on the official EU Commission's website.](#)

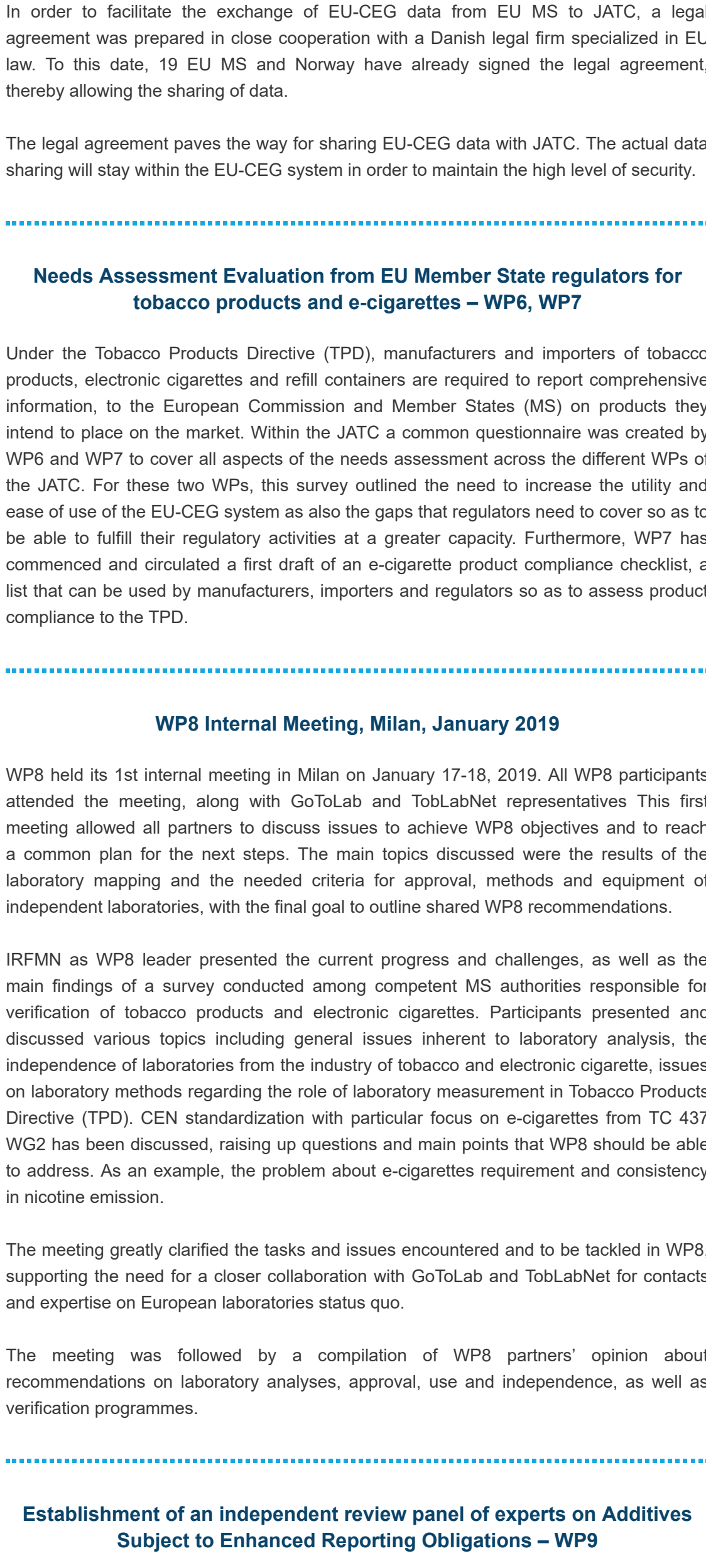


JATC Interim Meeting

WPs Progress and Outcomes

Development of the Joint Action on Tobacco Control official website – WP2

As part of the JATC activities, a modern website (www.jatc.eu) was developed, through which any interested stakeholders can find information regarding the project's details, description, goals, participants, news and additional useful facts. All fundamental information about the project were also included in a brief project leaflet, both available in printed and [digital version at the project website](#).



Stakeholder mapping – WP2

The objectives of WP2 are to disseminate as widely as possible, the process, updates and recommendations of the JATC and to set up a network of interested policy makers, professionals and other stakeholders at EU level. In this context, more than 250 EU and international stakeholders were identified by October 2018, as a result of all JATC partners' contribution and participation in tobacco control conferences. This network of stakeholders will be frequently informed with the outcome produced during the JATC progress.

If you are interested in *sharing our results with other potential stakeholders*, you can support our efforts by suggesting organizations or experts who might be interested in receiving the JATC newsletter. (Contact: <http://jatc.eu/contact/>)

Legal agreement for sharing EU-CEG data – WP5

WP5 is a crucial part of the JATC. The aim of WP5 is to provide the framework for efficient usage of data submitted in the EU Common Entry Gate (EU-CEG) and facilitate the access to these data for the purposes of JATC. EU-CEG is an Information Technology (IT) tool developed to provide a common reporting format for manufacturers and importers of tobacco products, e-cigarettes and refill containers. EU-CEG was designed to facilitate a harmonized reporting system that lessens the administrative burden for submitters, as well as enhancing the Commission and EU MS's ability to compare data and ultimately regulate tobacco products on the EU market.

In order to facilitate the exchange of EU-CEG data from EU MS to JATC, a legal agreement was prepared in close cooperation with a Danish legal firm specialized in EU law. To this date, 19 EU MS and Norway have already signed the legal agreement, thereby allowing the sharing of data.

The legal agreement paves the way for sharing EU-CEG data with JATC. The actual data sharing will stay within the EU-CEG system in order to maintain the high level of security.

Needs Assessment Evaluation from EU Member State regulators for tobacco products and e-cigarettes – WP6, WP7

Under the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD), manufacturers and importers of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes and refill containers are required to report comprehensive information, to the European Commission and Member States (MS) on products they intend to place on the market. Within the JATC a common questionnaire was created by WP6 and WP7 to cover all aspects of the needs assessment across the different WPs of the JATC. For these two WPs, this survey outlined the need to increase the utility and ease of use of the EU-CEG system as also the gaps that regulators need to cover so as to be able to fulfill their regulatory activities at a greater capacity. Furthermore, WP7 has commenced and circulated a first draft of an e-cigarette product compliance checklist, a list that can be used by manufacturers, importers and regulators so as to assess product compliance to the TPD.

WP8 Internal Meeting, Milan, January 2019

WP8 held its 1st internal meeting in Milan on January 17-18, 2019. All WP8 participants attended the meeting, along with GoToLab and TobLabNet representatives. This first meeting allowed all partners to discuss issues to achieve WP8 objectives and to reach a common plan for the next steps. The main topics discussed were the results of the laboratory mapping and the needed criteria for approval, methods and equipment of independent laboratories, with the final goal to outline shared WP8 recommendations.

IRFMN as WP8 leader presented the current progress and challenges, as well as the main findings of a survey conducted among competent MS authorities responsible for verification of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes. Participants presented and discussed various topics including general issues inherent to laboratory analysis, the independence of laboratories from the industry of tobacco and electronic cigarette, issues on laboratory methods regarding the role of laboratory measurement in Tobacco Products Directive (TPD). CEN standardization with particular focus on e-cigarettes from TC 437 WG2 has been discussed, raising up questions and main points that WP8 should be able to address. As an example, the problem about e-cigarettes requirement and consistency in nicotine emission.

The meeting greatly clarified the tasks and issues encountered and to be tackled in WP8, supporting the need for a closer collaboration with GoToLab and TobLabNet for contacts and expertise on European laboratories status quo.

The meeting was followed by a compilation of WP8 partners' opinion about recommendations on laboratory analyses, approval, use and independence, as well as verification programmes.

Establishment of an independent review panel of experts on Additives Subject to Enhanced Reporting Obligations – WP9

Manufacturers using priority additives in their tobacco products or roll-your-own products had to submit enhanced reporting documents on these additives by July 1st 2018 in the EU-CEG system. These studies should report on whether these compounds are (or increase) toxic, addictive, facilitate inhalation or nicotine uptake, result in characterizing flavour or possess CMR properties. The first analysis of these reports shows that 12 large tobacco manufacturers formed a consortium which submitted, in cooperation, studies on 14 out of the 15 priority additives in each MS country.

To assess the documents on priority additives, the WP9 leader composed an independent review panel. They will collaborate to perform the review of these documents, with the use of an assessment framework especially composed for this task.

JATC Presentation to External Stakeholders

3rd ENSP-CNPT Conference on Tobacco Control

The main aims of the JATC project was presented during the 3rd ENSP Conference with the title "Meeting new challenges, joining local and global efforts towards the tobacco endgame in Europe". The conference took place in June 2018 in Madrid and was attended by 450 participants from 44 countries. During a separate JATC session included in the conference program, the Coordination Team, some Work Package leaders and representatives of the European Commission, introduced and presented the JATC to the audience by emphasizing the role of EU-CEG, in monitoring e-cigarette product regulation, tobacco product emissions in the EU, handling of priority additives in Europe, the EU Common Entry Gate as well as the tobacco product regulation through the Joint Action.

[Read more on the Conference website.](#)

Conference Opening Ceremony
Left: P. Behrakis - JATC Coordinator, H.E. Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, Dr Lozano - ENSP President, Mr. Radu-Lohitno - ENSP SG
Right: H.E. Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis

Other news

Reference of the JATC in a written response of the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety to the European Parliament

The European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis recently referred to the JATC in his written response to the Parliamentary question on e-cigarettes, on behalf of the European Commission: *"The Commission facilitates information exchanges and best practices, assessment of data and is working with Member States for example in the Expert Group on Tobacco Policy, Subgroup on Electronic Cigarettes and in the context of a Joint Action on Tobacco Control. The Commission does not currently undertake educational awareness-raising campaigns and does not foresee activity in this area."*

[Read more on the EU Parliament website.](#)

Establishment of the collaboration with the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP), as an external subcontractor

The European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP) is an international non-profit organization, established in 1997 under Belgian law. Its mission is to develop a strategy for coordinated action among organizations active in tobacco control in Europe by sharing information and experience through coordinated activities and joint projects. Due to the wide network of partners on the tobacco control field and their wide experience, ENSP involvement will add extra value to the dissemination of the project results and information.

[Read more about ENSP at \[ensp.network\]\(http://ensp.network\).](#)

JATC – Ethics

Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, data protection and Transparency

From the very beginning of JATC project, it was underlined that all actions within the project must comply with the moral, social, corporate and research ethical principles and that it is expected from all participants to comply with a, ethical principles, b, the absence of conflict of interest, c, confidentiality, d, data protection and e, transparency.

In this regard, the Objective 7, Task 7.1 of the WP1 was to develop the Declaration Form document, which was indeed edited by the close collaboration of the Hellenic Thoracic Society and the Coordination Team, based on the following references:

- FCTC Article 5.3
- Standard Declaration of interests for members of Independent Advisory Panel)
- CHEST COI policy,
- The H2020 Tack SHS project Declaration of Competing Interests,
- EC service contract conditions of January 2016,
- Codes of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest at any governance level of the management of EU Funds, Policy Department D for Budgetary Affairs (Blomeyer & Sanz)

A digital version of the Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, Data protection and Transparency form was circulated to all JATC participants via the SurveyMonkey platform in September 2018.

By the end of January 2019, *more than 140 individual JATC COI forms were successfully submitted*, including participants, beneficiaries, collaborating partners, external subcontractors, all members of the WP9 expert's panel and all competent authorities who participated in the WP8 internal meeting. The Coordination has been closely monitoring the submission process, asking each participant to submit their signed JATC COI form prior to any participation in the project's actions, meetings or teleconferences.

As foreseen by the Grant Agreement, the confidentiality obligations shall apply for the duration of the project and for as long as the information / data / documents/ remain confidential.