



September 14, 2017

André Calantzopoulos  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Philip Morris International  
 Avenue de Rhodanie 50 1007  
 Lausanne, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Calantzopoulos,

The undersigned organizations, representing global health, human rights, consumer protection, medical and other organizations, call on you to immediately cease the production, marketing and sale of cigarettes. This action is at least half a century overdue, and tens of millions have died unnecessarily as a direct result of tobacco use.

In 1954, Philip Morris promised to “stop business tomorrow” if it became apparent that cigarettes are harmful to health.<sup>1</sup> This promise was repeated for decades, most recently in 1997 by Philip Morris CEO Geoffrey Bible, who responded to the question “What he would do with his manufacturing plants if scientists proved that cigarettes were a cause of cancer?” by saying he would “shut it down instantly.”<sup>2</sup> We know from Philip Morris’ own internal documents that the company was aware that cigarettes were harmful even in 1954; by 1997 Mr. Bible’s response was simply absurd in the face of overwhelming scientific proof.

Cigarettes cannot be “re-engineered” to make them acceptable in global commerce; they are inherently defective. There is no safe level of consumption, and they provide no necessary benefit to their consumers.

<sup>1</sup> Weissman, George, Philip Morris Inc. Facts versus fancy. 26 February 1954. Bates No. 1002366389-1002366397.

<sup>2</sup> Cerriden M. Tobacco exec stuns observers. Dallas Morning News. 22 August 1997. Bates No. 86329862-86329865.

Given the deadly nature of tobacco smoke, and the extremely addictive nature of nicotine, the marketing and sale of cigarettes violates several universally accepted human rights, in particular the right to life and the right to health. In May 2017, a human rights organization that had been engaged in

voluntary collaboration with PMI, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, ended its relationship with your company and concluded that *“According to the UNGPs [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights] companies should avoid causing or contributing to adverse impacts on human rights. Where such impacts occur, companies should immediately cease the actions that cause or contribute to the impacts. Tobacco is deeply harmful to human health, and there can be no doubt that the production and marketing of tobacco is irreconcilable with the human right to health. For the tobacco industry, the UNGPs [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights] therefore require the cessation of the production and marketing of tobacco.”*<sup>3</sup>

The front page of PMI’s own website depicts a video of employees “Designing a Smoke-Free Future.”<sup>4</sup> Your rationale includes “because...society expects us to act responsibly.”<sup>5</sup> If, by your own logic, acting responsibly requires you to stop selling cigarettes, by what ethical rubric can you continue to sell them? The only possible explanation is that you feel you can still profit from doing so. That decision – to continue a business model that you have admitted is irresponsible – is unacceptable. And to continue profiting from a product that you know will kill a significant proportion of your customers when used as intended is monstrous.

PMI, its shareholders, and you personally have been enriched while knowingly killing your customers. You have it in your immediate power to change the fate of millions of people, perhaps hundreds of millions. Do the right thing by immediately ceasing the production, marketing and sale of cigarettes.

Signed,

ACT Promoção de Saúde (ACT Health Promotion, from Brazil)  
Action on Smoking and Health Foundation (Thailand)  
Action on Smoking and Health New Zealand  
Action on Smoking and Health (US)  
African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA)  
Airspace Action on Smoking and Health  
Alliance of Women against Tobacco (Tabinaj) (Bangladesh)  
American Cancer Society, Inc.  
American College of Chest Physicians  
Americans for Non-Smokers’ Rights  
ASH Finland  
ASH Scotland (UK)  
Asia-Pacific Heart Network  
Association for the Prevention of Addictions (Bulgaria)  
Association of Medical Students in Bulgaria  
Belgian Foundation Against Cancer  
BlueLink Foundation (Bulgaria)  
Breathe Free (Bulgaria)  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Cancer Aid Society, India

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<sup>3</sup> Danish Institute for Human Rights, *Human Rights assessment in Philip Morris International*, Web, May 4, 2017. Found at <https://www.humanrights.dk/news/human-rights-assessment-philip-morris-international>.

<sup>4</sup> Philip Morris International, <https://www.pmi.com>.

<sup>5</sup> Philip Morris International, <https://www.pmi.com/who-we-are/designing-a-smoke-free-future>.

Cancer Society of Finland  
CIPRET-Vaud  
Coalición Panameña Contra el Tabaquismo (COPACET)  
Coalition Camerounaise Contre le Tabac  
College of Global Public Health at New York University  
Comité National Contre le Tabagisme  
Committee / Unesco University Club for the Fight against Drugs and Other  
Pandemics (CLUCOD)  
Community Nursing Association  
Corporate Accountability International  
Danish Cancer Society  
Danish Heart Foundation  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Pneumologie und Beatmungsmedizin e.V.  
DNF-Droits des Non-Fumeurs  
Dutch Alliance for a Smokefree Society  
EHYT Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention  
Environmental Rights Action / Friends of the Earth Nigeria  
Ethical Shareholders Association Germany  
European COPD Coalition (ECC)  
European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention  
European Respiratory Society (ERS)  
Evidence-based Health Policy Development (EBHPD)  
FCTC Implementation and Monitoring Center in Georgia  
Finnish Heart Association  
Finnish Lung Health Association  
FOMCA  
German Medical Action Group Smoking or Health  
Global Bridges  
Global Economic Law Network, Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne  
Global Network for Tobacco Free Health Services  
Green Hand Organization - Lebanon  
Healis - Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health  
Health and Trade Network  
Health Jurists Association  
Human Rights and Tobacco Control Network  
Indian Cancer Society, Delhi  
Institute for Youth Participation, Health and Sustainable Development  
InterAmerican Heart Foundation  
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
INWAT Europe  
Israel Cancer Association  
Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control  
Jeewaka Foundation - Sri Lanka  
Jogja Sehat Tanpa Tembakau (JSTT / Tobacco-free Healthy Jogja)  
Lithuanian Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition  
Madrid Association of Public Health  
Mexico Salud-Hable Coalition  
National Alliance for Tobacco Control (ALIENTO)  
NCD Alliance  
New Vois Ass'n. of the Phils. Inc.  
No Excuse Slovenia  
Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Roundtable  
Norwegian Cancer Society  
ORGANIZACION 3600 BOLIVIA  
OxyRomandie  
Patients' Organization "With you!" (Bulgaria)  
Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada  
Policlinique médicale universitaire CH-Lausanne

`Pratyasha' Anti-Drug's Club

PROGGA

Progressive Reinforcement of Organizations and Individuals

Public Health Advocacy Institute at Northeastern University School of Law

Public Health Association of Australia

Public Health Society of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands

Research and Training Centre for Community Development (RTCCD)

SELBAR - Selangor Bebas Asap Rokok

SERAC-Bangladesh

Slovenian Coalition for Public Health, Environment and Tobacco Control

Smart International

Smoke Free Agents

Smoke Free Bulgaria - Civic Initiative

Smoke Free Life Coalition Bulgaria

Smoke Free Israel

Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance

Spanish Primary Care Network

Spanish Society of Environmental Health

Spanish Society of Epidemiology

Spanish Society of Public Health and Health Administration

Swarna Hansa Foundation

Swiss Association for Tobacco Prevention

T&T Consulting Limited

Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum

The Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH)

The Austrian Council on Smoking and Health

The French Alliance against Tobacco

The Heart Foundation of Jamaica

The Organisation for Respiratory Health in Finland

Tobacco-free Finland

Tobacco Alcohol Free Initiative, (TAFI), Eldoret, Kenya

Tobacco Free Association of Zambia

TobaccoFree Research Institute Ireland (TFRI)

Truth Initiative

UBINIG Policy Research for Development Alternative

Ukrainian NGO Advocacy Center "LIFE"

Unfairtobacco

Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

Vietnam Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (NCDs-VN)

Vietnam Public Health Association

Vision for Alternative Development (Ghana)

Vital Strategies

World Federation of Public Health Associations

YPCDN

Zambia Consumer Association

Zambia Heart and Stroke Foundation

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