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To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Adoption of a Council Decision on the Conclusion, on Behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, in so far as the Provisions of the Protocol Which Do Not Fall under Title V of Part III of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union are Concerned  
- Statement by the Danish Delegation

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**Declaration from Denmark regarding the EU's Endorsement of WHO's Protocol to Eliminate  
Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products**

Denmark holds a strong tradition involving and engaging in close dialogue with the business community in relation to creation, drafting and execution of National legislation as well as EU legislation.

It is the perception of Denmark that such a dialogue is an essential instrument in the democratic process to ensure that decisions are made on a solid foundation.

It is thus a fundamental and a democratic issue, that outcomes originating from the WHO's Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, are developed without the involvement of the affected parties of the business community. The criticality of the democratic issue is seen especially in relation to the development and implementation of the so-called 'Track & Trace'-system and by introduction of unique and validating product identifiers. These solutions will be managed, implemented and executed in practice by the affected business communities, and due to their key role, the business communities must be actively involved in the decision making processes.

Denmark is generally positive towards initiatives aimed at elimination of illicit trade of tobacco products, but must stress that a close and democratic dialogue with the affected parties of the business communities is a paramount pre-requisite for affective solutions.

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