



**НАЦИОНАЛНА АСОЦИАЦИЯ
НА ТЮТЮНИОПРОИЗВОДИТЕЛИТЕ
2010**

**To:
The Minister of Agriculture and Foods
Prof. Dimitar Grekov**

Dear Minister,

For a second consecutive year over 30 million tobacco growers worldwide celebrate the Day 28th of October as the World Tobacco Growers Day. Over 200 thousand of them live and work in our country – the Republic of Bulgaria.

Traditionally on this day in more than 100 countries Petitions for protecting the tobacco growing are handed to international and national institutions as well as to their representatives.

This year our Petition is created on the basis of the Declaration, adopted at the Annual Meeting of the International Tobacco Growers' Association (ITGA), held in the period 14-17 October in Surabaya, Indonesia. Our Petition emphasizes the important issues and the main priorities of the tobacco growing in Europe which are:

Art. 6 of the Tobacco Products Directive – introducing a requirement for a positive list of additives in the tobacco products. The proposal voted by the European Parliament, but not supported by either the Council or the European Commission is essentially a ban of the ingredients required for the processing of the tobacco and manufacturing of the tobacco products. As we have already said several times, it is the Oriental and Burley tobacco – the one that is grown in Bulgaria and the EU, which requires more additives for their processing. The inability of the tobacco products manufacturers to use ingredients at the processing stage and when making their blends will reduce the demand for those tobacco varieties. **This will be detrimental for the 200 thousand Bulgarian citizens who are engaged in the Oriental and Burley tobacco growing in our country.**

Art. 17&18 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), regarding the search for alternatives to the tobacco as a crop and its environmental impact. When drafting the guidelines on articles 17&18 it should be taken into account the opinion of the millions of tobacco growers worldwide and the position of the agricultural experts as regards to the lack of realism and feasibility of the proposed measures which would seriously affect the business and the livelihood of the tobacco growers.

The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2014-2020. Under the June agreement on the CAP reform countries can link up to 15 percent of direct subsidies only to certain products including cereals, livestock and dairy but **excluding tobacco from this list of products eligible for production-linked payments.** These types of coupled payments, unlike the area-based subsidies, are designed to ensure that farming is maintained in marginal areas such as uplands where exactly Oriental tobacco is grown. However, now Bulgarian tobacco growers cannot benefit from any EU subsidies and this would definitely affect their business and their livelihood.

In view of the above, NAT- 2010 calls for your the protection of the national interests of the Bulgarian tobacco growers on all these priority issues to continue and requests that each decision you make takes into account the



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impact which this decision would have on the tobacco growers and the tobacco growing as a whole, considering their importance for the development and welfare of many regions in the country.

For your reference please find enclosed ITGA's Declaration supported by all the member states of the international organization among which is Bulgaria's National Association of Tobacco Growers (NAT-2010).

I address to you this Petition and the Declaration hoping that they will be read diligently and clearly comprehended!

Sincerely,

Chairman of NAT-2010 /Tsvetan Filev/

28.10.2013 г.