Tobacco Lobby: Why do Tax Authorities Influence on the Ukrainian Health Legislation? **|** Announcement

**Tobacco lobby: why do tax officers influence on Ukrainian health legislation?**

*On the last day of May the world will celebrate World No Tobacco Day. Each year 63 thousand people in Ukraine die from diseases caused by their smoking. One of the factors preventing this amount from decreasing is corruption reasons. Experts of Ukrainian branch of Transparency International anti-corruption watchdog have found that owners of tobacco corporations in Ukraine significantly affect decisions of the officials and block adoption of important laws on the protection of public health.*

On Wednesday **7 June** at **11:30** a.m. at a press conference at **UNIAN** (Kyiv, str. Khreshchatyk, 4), experts of ТІ Ukraine, Center for Democracy and Rule of Law and NGO «Life» will introduce a research on lobbying in the tobacco sector that is carried out through a Parliamentary Committee on Taxation and Customs Policy. Researchers will point to a potential conflict of interest and explain why an important law on the protection of health from the harmful effects of tobacco № 2820 is being blocked by the Taxation Committee.

Speakers:

**Yaroslav Yurchyshyn**, Executive Director at TI Ukraine;

**Sergii Mytkalyk**, External expert of TI Ukraine project on monitoring conflict of interests in the tobacco industry;

**Taras Shevchenko,** Director of the Center for Democracy and the Rule of Law Center

**Andrii Skipalskyi**, Chairman at NGO «Life», expert of Ukrainian Center for Tobacco Control.

**Please register on-site with editorial certificates.**

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Transparency International Ukraine is a representative office of a global anti-corruption network Transparency International with over 100 chapters worldwide. Mission of TI Ukraine is to reduce corruption levels in Ukraine by promoting transparency, accountability and integrity of public authorities and civil society. Please learn more using the following link [www.ti-ukraine.org](http://www.ti-ukraine.org)

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