

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency:** Treasury

**Question:** AET 159-163

**Topic:** Framework Convention on Tobacco Control's 'Conference of Parties 6' (COP 6) Meeting

**Reference:** written - 17 February 2016

**Senator:** Canavan, Matthew

**Question:**

159. Was anyone in the Treasury Department aware of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control's 'Conference of Parties 6' (COP 6) meeting that took place in Moscow from 13 to 18 October, 2014? If so, when and what preparations, if any, occurred?

160. Was Treasury aware that one of the most significant agenda items at the COP 6 conference related to tobacco excise taxes and pricing formulas?

161. Did the Department of Health ever ask Treasury for advice on how to approach taxation issues at the COP 6 conference meeting?

162. Was Treasury ever consulted about decisions the Department of Health was making on its behalf regarding tobacco tax excises at the COP 6 conference?

163. Did the Department of Health ever inform Treasury of what final decisions it had made on taxation issues on its behalf and how they arrived at their position when the COP 6 meeting had concluded?

**Answer:**

159. Although the Department of Health has primary carriage of facilitating implementation of Australia's obligations under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), including coordinating participation in the Conference of the Parties (COP), Treasury was consulted regarding Australia's position ahead of the sixth session of the COP (COP6).

160. Treasury was aware that Guidelines for the implementation of Article 6 of the WHO FCTC: *Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco* was on the COP 6 agenda.

161. The Department of Health consulted Treasury in determining Australia's position in relation to the adoption of the Guidelines for Article 6 of the WHO FCTC.

162. The Department of Health consulted Treasury in determining Australia's position in relation to the adoption of the Guidelines for Article 6 of the WHO FCTC.

163. Treasury was formally notified of the outcomes of COP6, including the adoption of the Guidelines for Article 6 of the WHO FCTC, shortly after the session.