



**Anthony Gooch**

Director  
Directeur  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE  
DIRECTION DES RELATIONS EXTÉRIEURES ET DE LA COMMUNICATION

Ref.: AG978

25 March 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter to the OECD Secretary-General expressing your concerns about the invitation of Mary Katherine Brink from Philip Morris International to speak at a session on responsible lobbying during our annual Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum. We understand and appreciate your position with respect to the health impact of tobacco and the actions of its industry. We take your concerns seriously.

The Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum aims to promote an open dialogue between government, business and civil society. Indeed, the strength of the event is that it brings together different views and perspectives.

For this event, we liaised closely with the Business Industry Advisory Council (Business at OECD) whose role it is to echo and relay the voice of business to OECD.

For the particular panel in question, we understand that BIAAC's choice of Philip Morris International to represent, was based on PMI's active membership of the BIAAC Task Force on Anti-Corruption and Integrity, and PMI's co-chairmanship of the B20 during the Argentinian G20 Presidency.

Having said this, we take good note of your point that it is incumbent on international organisations to consider carefully the platforms we provide and to whom, be they private or public actors. We will have this very present as we plan events in future.

In the meantime, the OECD will continue to promote higher standards of transparency and accountability in public policy and discourse, and live up to those standards.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Gooch