E-cigarettes

Thank you for your letter of 28 September regarding the Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

In your letter you noted that “we will set out UK positions on the matters to be considered in reaching a common position across the European Union”. My secretariat has spoken to your officials, who explained that such positions are not published by the EU, and directed the Committee to the WHO FCTC decision relating to ‘Novel and emerging tobacco products’, which I have read.

In your letter you offered to provide me with “a report back from CoP, should you find that helpful”. I would find it helpful if you could provide me with a fuller read-out, beyond that included in the decision paper, of the discussions and decisions at CoP-8 on this matter. I was concerned that the published decision made no reference to the importance of harm reduction and to the potential value of e-cigarettes in helping to reduce smoking rates.