

EUROPEAN NEWS BULLETIN 179: 3-9 November 2006

Produced by the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)

*** Weekly summary of this week's European headlines ***

CYPRUS: Health Minister fully supports strategic plan for tobacco control

FRANCE: Restaurateurs and tobacco vendors protest against proposed smoking ban

GERMANY: Berlin ground-breaking smoking ban is example to rest of country

HUNGARY: Events sponsored by tobacco industry set to be banned

UK: National Smoke-Free Conference to launch government's Smoke-free Implementation Strategy

STUDY: Study reveals that ventilations systems do not remove toxins

*** Our news from the EU/WHO ***

WHO: Dr Margaret Chan to become WHO Director-General

*** Weekly summary of this week's European headlines ***

CYPRUS: Health Minister fully supports strategic plan for tobacco control

Health Minister Charis Charalambous has stated that he is fully committed to backing proposals to implement a strategic plan for tobacco control. The Health Ministry is organising a broad forum involving education and Health Ministry officials, organisations involved in tobacco issues and other services, to discuss implementation of this strategy. The strategic plan for tobacco control was developed jointly by the Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health and the Harvard School of Public Health. It will include the creation of a tobacco control agency, a legal framework for tobacco advertising, counter-marketing activities, restriction on youth access to tobacco products, a reduction in exposure to second-hand smoke, thus creating a social environment that discourages smoking altogether, more widespread treatment programmes for nicotine dependence, and research and evaluation.

Source: Cyprus Mail, 9 November 2006

http://www.cyprus-mail.com/news/main.php?id=28923&cat_id=1

FRANCE: Restaurateurs and tobacco vendors protest against proposed smoking ban

Tobacco vendors and restaurateurs in some 70 cities around France protested on Monday 6 November 2006 against the proposed smoking ban, which is due to come into effect in 2007. The demonstrators demanded that tobacco vendors be allowed to choose whether or not to go non-smoking as well as a five-year delay in applying the ban, which is due to start in February 2007 in public places, including offices and schools, and in 2008 in restaurants, dance clubs and some bars.

Source: The Washington Post, 6 November 2006

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/06/AR2006110600680.html>

GERMANY: Berlin ground-breaking smoking ban is example to rest of country

Berlin's government wants to introduce a ground-breaking ban on smoking in public buildings, as well as all bars and restaurants. This action is reviving debate on outlawing smoking throughout Germany. Berlin governing mayor Klaus Wowereit's Social Democrat Party (SPD) and their designated coalition partners, the Left Party, said this week that they would be pressing ahead with their plans for a smoke-free city. According to Ingeborg Junge-Reyer, a member of Mayor Wowereit's cabinet, the government is planning a non-smoker protection bill. She also said the law could be applicable as early as 2007. "It will be a strict non-smoker protection bill. I can well imagine a complete ban along the lines of Italy or Ireland."

Source: Deutsche Welle, 1 November 2006

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2221894,00.html>

HUNGARY: Events sponsored by tobacco industry set to be banned

On 8 November 2006 the Hungarian Ministry of Economics submitted to parliament a bill amendment of the advertising act. The amendment aims to bring Hungarian regulations on sponsorship of international sport events by tobacco companies in line with the EU directive 33/2003.

Source: Origo, 8 November 2006

<http://www.origo.hu/uzletinegyed/hirek/hazaihirek/20061103dohanyaruval.html>

UK: National Smoke-Free Conference to launch government's Smoke-free Implementation Strategy

The National Smoke-Free Conference, which is hosted by Smoke-Free Liverpool in collaboration with the Tobacco Control Collaborating Centre, is due to take place in Liverpool from 23 to 24 November 2006. The aim of the conference is to secure compliance-building for the successful implementation of smoke-free legislation and to maximise its public health benefits. UK Health Minister Caroline Flint will launch the government's Smoke-Free Implementation Strategy, including its Communications and Research Strategies and provide an overview of the draft smoke-free regulations.

Source: The Publican, 7 November 2006

<http://www.thepublican.com/story.asp?sectioncode=7&storycode=53352&c=1>

Conference website: <http://www.smokefreeconference.co.uk>

STUDY: Study reveals that ventilations systems do not remove toxins

Experts on second-hand smoke exposure have been examining claims that displacement ventilation systems could protect non-smokers from tobacco smoke in restaurants and bars. The study looked at air quality before and after a smoking ban in a restaurant/bar in Toronto, Canada, and compared it to the levels of chemicals and toxic particles in the air of a similar establishment in Mesa, Arizona. As James Repace, from Tufts University School of Medicine, states: "This study proves that dining in a restaurant or bar's non-smoking section does not significantly reduce exposure to smoke-related pollutants, even in those establishments that use these sophisticated ventilation systems."

Source: Medical News Today, 8 November 2006

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=55576&nfid=rssfeeds>

*** Our news from the EU/WHO ***

WHO: Dr Margaret Chan to become WHO Director-General

Dr Margaret Chan of China is to become the new Director-General of the WHO. Dr Chan was nominated as Director-General on Wednesday 8 November 2006 by the WHO Executive Board and her appointment was confirmed on Thursday 9 November by the World Health Assembly. The Director-General is WHO's chief technical and administrative officer. After her appointment, she told the World Health Assembly that she wanted to be judged by the impact WHO's work has on the people of Africa and on women across the globe.

Source: WHO News Release, 9 November 2006

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2006/pr66/en/index.html>

*French Correspondent: Emmanuelle Beguinot, Comité National Contre le Tabagisme,
emmanuelle.beguinot@wanadoo.fr*

If you would like to inform other members about new publications or events in your organisation or country, please send contributions to michael.forrest@ensp.org.

If you would like to unsubscribe, please unsubscribe either by amending your profile on GLOBALink or, if you do not receive this bulletin via GLOBALink, by mailing michael.forrest@ensp.org.

Back issues of the European News Bulletin are available on the ENSP website:

<http://www.ensp.org/newsreports/enb-newsletter>.

This bulletin receives the financial support of the European Commission.