

EUROPEAN NEWS BULLETIN 211: 3-16 August 2007

Produced by the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)

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

CZECH REPUBLIC: Fiscal reform proposal to raise cigarette tax

DENMARK: Smoking ban in public places comes into force

ENGLAND: Compliance high in first weeks of smoking ban

FRANCE: Cigarette prices rise 6% on 6 August 2007

SLOVENIA: Smoking ban commences on Sunday 5 August 2007

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CZECH REPUBLIC: Fiscal reform proposal to raise cigarette tax

The consumer tax on cigarettes is likely to be higher than that had been originally planned in the Czech government's fiscal reform package in order to meet the Czech Republic's undertaking to the European Union, which was made on the country's accession to the EU. The tax is likely to raise the price of each pack of cigarettes by CZK 5 (approx. € 0.18), compared to the previously proposed CZK 4 (approx. € 0.14), to meet the EU requirement that the minimal tax on one thousand cigarettes is equivalent to € 64.

Source: Forbes, 7 August 2007

<http://www.forbes.com/business/feeds/afx/2007/08/07/afx3993128.html>

DENMARK: Smoking ban in public places comes into force

Denmark's smoking ban in public places came into effect on 15 August 2007. Smoking is banned in all workplaces, as well as restaurants, pubs and other places accessible to the public. However, the regulations are criticised by health experts due to the wide range of exemptions: e.g. smoking is still permitted in bar rooms measuring less than 40 m². Many venues have therefore artificially reduced or re-arranged the size of their premises. Smoking also continues to be allowed in one-person offices.

Source: Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, 15 August 2007

http://www.rnz.de/zusammen14/00_20070815081445_Umfassendes_daenisches_Rauchverbot_tritt_in_Kraf.html

ENGLAND: Compliance high in first weeks of smoking ban

Enforcement officers visited 88,899 premises in early July 2007 and concluded that 97% of the premises visited had implemented the smoking ban. However, councils did issue 142 written warnings to employers and licensees, and one defiant smoker was issued with a fixed penalty fine. Public Health Minister Dawn Primarolo stated: "We predicted that it would be largely self-enforcing based on experience elsewhere, and the fact that three-quarters of the public supported the move... All the signs are that businesses and the public have taken the new law in their stride." One area which still lags behind to some extent is signage: businesses are expected to display conspicuous No Smoking signs – 79% of premises inspected in July had already done so.

Source: BBC, 3 August 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6929605.stm>

FRANCE: Cigarette prices rise 6% on 6 August 2007

Cigarette prices rose in France by 6% on Monday 6 August 2007. This price rise, which had been finalised by cigarette manufacturers, was approved by the French government. The last general price rise for tobacco was in fact in January 2004, when prices rose between 8% and 10%, following two other significant hikes in 2003 as part of the campaign against tobacco.

Source: TF1, 1 August 2007

<http://tf1.lci.fr/infos/economie/consommation/0,,3511686,00-cigarette-plus-chere-lundi-.html>

SLOVENIA: Smoking ban commences on Sunday 5 August 2007

With effect as of Sunday 5 August 2007 smoking is banned in Slovenia in virtually all public places, including hotels and restaurants, except where special isolated smoking rooms have been installed. Under the new legislation, if a restaurant or pub does not have a proper smoking room, customers will have to go outside to light up or will face a fine of € 125 for smoking indoors. Ventilated glass cabins can also be installed in workplaces and in some public institutions, but like smoking rooms they are to be reserved for smoking, with no eating or drinking allowed inside. The new law to crack down on smoking also increased the minimum legal age for buying cigarettes and other tobacco products to 18 (from the current age of 15). Source: Agence France Presse, 3 August 2007

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070803/hl_afp/sloveniahealthtobacco_070803165358

The ENSP 2007 Directory is classified by country and lists all contact organisations and persons related to the network. It comprises information from about 500 organisations in the 28 member countries currently represented in ENSP. For more information and an order form, please refer to:

<http://www.ensp.org/publications/enspreports>

ENSP has also just published Why People Smoke, which examines the many reasons individuals have for smoking. Full details are available at:

<http://www.ensp.org/publications/enspreports>

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.

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