

## **EUROPEAN NEWS BULLETIN 215: 14-20 September 2007**

Produced by the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)

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

CZECH REPUBLIC: Black market cigarettes cost € 65 m. in lost tax revenue  
STUDY: Cigarettes are main risk factor for cancer in France

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

EP: MEPs assess deal with PM

EC: Eurobarometer report *Health in the EU* published

EC: Public consultation on smoke-free environments – positions published

EHFG: European Health Forum Gastein takes place from 3 to 6 October 2007

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CZECH REPUBLIC: Black market cigarettes cost € 65 m. in lost tax revenue  
Czech customs officials have stated that black market cigarette smuggling and sales accounted for an estimated CZK 1.8 billion (approx. € 65 m.) in lost tax revenue in 2006. Czech politicians are considering raising the excise tax on cigarettes to help balance the national budget, while customs officials say that pushing the cigarette tax up will cause an increase in black market activity. Illegal high-speed production lines are widespread, with operators producing packaging that mimics famous brands.

Source: Prague Post, 12 September 2007

<http://www.praquepost.com/articles/2007/09/12/black-market-cigarettes-cost-90-million-in-lost-tax-revenue.php>

STUDY: Cigarettes are main risk factor for cancer in France  
According to a new WHO report, environmental pollution poses a relatively small cancer risk in France in comparison with smoking and alcohol. The study, *Attributable causes of cancer in France in the year 2000*, which was published on 13 September 2007, found that cigarettes remain the main cancer risk factor, followed by alcohol consumption, while environmental pollution appears to pose a relatively small risk by comparison.

Source: Euractiv, 17 September 2007

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/health/lifestyle-blame-cancer-environment-study-shows/article-166775>

WHO-IARC study:

<http://www.iarc.fr/IARCPress/pdfs/francecancer2000/CausesofCancerFrance2000.pdf>

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

EP: MEPs assess deal with PM

The anti-smuggling alliance between the EU and Phillip Morris has been hailed a success by a Parliamentary draft report adopted on 12 September 2007. The alliance, which was concluded in 2004 after the Commission took legal action against the company, has been called a "gold standard" for future agreements by the European Parliament's rapporteur Bart Staes. Cigarette smuggling is huge; last year in the EU cigarettes worth € 460 m. in taxes were seized.

Source: European Parliament News, 13 September 2007

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/036-10175-254-09-37-905-20070906STO10166-2007-11-09-2007/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/036-10175-254-09-37-905-20070906STO10166-2007-11-09-2007/default_en.htm)

EC: Eurobarometer report *Health in the EU* published  
The European Commission has published the latest Eurobarometer report *Health in the EU*.  
Source: SANCO News, 14 September 2007  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_publication/eb\\_health\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_publication/eb_health_en.pdf)

EC: Public consultation on smoke-free environments – positions published  
The responses of the various stakeholders to the public consultation on smoke-free environments, the European Commission's Green Paper, have been published online.  
Source: SANCO News, 17 September 2007  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/Tobacco/smoke\\_free\\_consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/smoke_free_consultation_en.htm)

EHFG: European Health Forum Gastein takes place from 3 to 6 October 2007  
The European Health Forum Gastein celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year under the motto "10 Years Gastein – Shaping the future of health". The forum examines main aspects and challenges of European health policy in order to develop potential solutions for the future.  
Source: Health EU Newsletter, 20 September 2007  
EHFG: <http://www.ehfg.org/typo3/index.php?id=10&L=1>

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