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AUSTRIA: Chancellor promises to meet European standard in battle against smoking
Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer took advantage of his appearance at the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG), which is the most important health policy event in the European Union, to announce a clear commitment to the battle against smoking: He stated: "There are more vehement supporters for smoking restrictions than the health minister in the government." The bill presented by Health Minister Andrea Kdolsky is not even remotely close to the targets formulated in the coalition talks. He added: "When I saw the legislation for the first time, I didn't really believe it was written by the Ministry of Health." Fierce criticism of the host country's smoking legislation was voiced by the experts attending the event. "If you didn't convince the health minister, you at least convinced the chancellor," Gusenbauer told the audience. The proposed legislation says that premises measuring under 75 m² can declare themselves to be smoking venues, thus avoiding any obligation to protect either employees or customers. The sole protection in premises larger than 75 m² is ventilation – there is no obligation to structurally separate smoking from non-smoking areas.

Source: Austrian Council on Smoking and Health, 7 October 2007

<http://www.aerzteinitiative.at/GusiGastein0710e.pdf>

Source: APA, 9 October 2007

http://www.ots.at/meldung.php?schluessel=OTS_20071009_OT50243

AUSTRIA: Physicians criticise new bill of law

The Austrian Chamber of Physicians voiced criticism of the new bill of law last Wednesday (10 October 2007), saying that a smoking ban without any exemptions should apply in all premises. This will require sanctions, strict spot-checks and a police complaints procedure, adding that ventilation equipment is not sufficient to reduce levels of air pollutants adequately. The Chamber of Physicians also stated that, if the legislation continues to allow smoking, very stringent requirements should apply, including a total structural separation with automatic doors and installation of separate, very powerful air extraction equipment (i.e. at least 5 Pa). They also demand that all premises still allowing smoking should display signage stating: "Entering these premises may damage your health".

Source: Die Presse, 10 October 2007

<http://www.diepresse.com/home/panorama/oesterreich/335916/index.do>

Austrian Chamber of Physicians Press Release:

<http://www.aek.or.at/?id=00000000020071010124126&aid=xhtml&id=00000000020071010124126&type=module&noedit=true>

FRANCE: Tobacconists to demonstrate against smoking ban

On Tuesday 10 October 2007 the Confederation of Tobacconists launched an appeal to its members to demonstrate in front of their local authorities on 6 November 2007. The tobacconists are expressing their anger following the government's decision to ban smoking in bars, restaurants and discotheques as of 1 February 2008. (Smoking has already been banned in other public places in France since 1 February 2007.) René Le Pape, President of the organisation, stated in a press release: "If need be, we will go so far as to organise a national demonstration in Paris at the end of November."

Source: iFrance, 10 October 2007

<http://web.ifrance.com/actu/france/38592>

*** Institutional News ***

EC: Vice President demands register for lobbyists

EU Commission Vice President Siim Kallas has repeated his call for increased "legitimacy" in the EU decision-making process. Speaking in Parliament at a hearing on lobbying, he said the credibility of the entire EU was at stake. The European Parliament alone currently has some 4570 accredited lobbyists, many from NGOs and pressure groups. He said that a register was desirable in order to improve transparency in the EU decision-making process. He added: "The transparency initiative we have launched is aimed at showing that the whole decision-making process is open, credible and legitimate."

Source: The Parliament, 9 October 2007

<http://www.theparliament.com/EN/News/200710/1c9516aa-76d2-428c-8397-09e84f77b7ce.htm>

EC: Council approves EU Health Programme for 2008-2013

The Council adopted a decision establishing the Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health for the period 2008-2013 on 9 October 2007. Building on the Public Health Programme 2003-2008, the new programme establishes the framework for funding European projects and other health-related actions for the period from 2008 to 2013. The Programme's objectives are: to improve citizens' health security, to promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities, and to generate and disseminate health information and knowledge. The new programme is due to come into force on 1 January 2008. The programme budget is € 321.5 m. Cross-European actions, which support developments at European level in the field of health, are eligible for funding under this new programme. To ensure participation by organisations, which promote a health agenda in line with the programme objectives, a wide variety of financing mechanisms are offered, including co-financing and tendering actions, operational grants, and joint financing with Member States and with other Community programmes.

Source: SANCO News, 10 October 2007

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/enews/enews.cfm?a_id=615

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/pgm2008_2013_en.htm

Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008)

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/programme_en.htm

EP: Cigarette smuggling (EC-Philip Morris agreement)

MEPs adopted a non-binding report on cigarette smuggling (EC-Philip Morris agreement). The European Parliament, supported by the Council and the European Court of Auditors, is recommending that, in order to prevent fraud, transit movements be computerised, the legal framework be revised and the Commission and the Member States improve physical checks based on common risk analysis. The European Parliament notes that, under the agreement, Philip Morris will enhance the tracing and tracking of its products so as to assist law enforcement authorities in combating illegal trade.

Source: European Parliament Press Service, 11 October 2007
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/035-11453-283-10-41-905-20071008IPR11357-10-10-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

*** ENSP Network News ***

ENSH standards published

The 12th edition of the ENSH Newsletter (European Network of Smoke-free Hospitals) has been published containing, among other articles, a feature on ENSH Standards – Towards a Smoke-free Hospital Service, including the self-audit questionnaire. In addition to membership, there are three levels of certification (bronze, silver and gold). Full details of the criteria for certification are contained in the article. The newsletter also contains the ten principles of the European Code of Smoke-free Healthcare Services and the ENSH Guidelines for Psychiatric Services.

Source: ENSH Newsletter, 12th Edition

http://ensh.aphp.fr/IMG/pdf/12th_ENSHnewsletterLight.pdf

*** Reports/Research/Conferences ***

ECToH 2007

The 4th European Conference Tobacco or Health 2007 took place in Basel, Switzerland, from 11 to 13 October 2007. The conference examined various approaches to prevention policies. Among other aspects, the study *Progress in Tobacco Control in 30 European Countries 2005-2007* by Luk Joossens and Martin Raw was presented for the first time. This study includes the latest tobacco control ranking of countries for 2007. This scale takes into account various measures, such as smoking bans and prevention campaigns. Top of the list were UK (93 points), Ireland (74 points), Iceland (74 points) and Norway (66 points); at the bottom, however, were Germany (37 points), Greece (36 points), Luxembourg (36 points) and Austria (35 points). The conference also examined wide-ranging subjects, such as the way forward within the scope of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), smoking in films, the influence of the tobacco industry, smoke-free sports (including industry sponsoring for the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament), women and tobacco. The conference concluded with a resolution, emphasising the pressing need for all European countries to become parties to the FCTC within one year and creation of 100% protection by means of smoke-free legislation, regular tax increases, adoption of a protocol on illicit trade, introduction of pictorial health warnings and adoption of an advertising ban i.a.

Sources: Basler Zeitung, 12 October 2007

Tagesanzeiger, 12 October 2007

No URLs

ECToH 2007 Resolution: http://www.ensp.org/files/ectoh_2007_resolution.pdf

Progress in Tobacco Control in 30 European Countries 2005-2007:

http://www.ensp.org/files/30_european_countries_text_final.pdf

WCToH 2009

During the ECToH 2007 a formal announcement was also made for the 14th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, which is due to be held in Mumbai, India, from 8 to 12 March 2009. Full details, including the conference overview, are available online at the conference website.

Source: WCToH

<http://www.14wctoh.org/>

GLOBALink Petition: Davidoff Swiss Indoors

GLOBALink has launched a petition asking tennis star Roger Federer to reconsider his participation in the Davidoff Swiss Indoors, which is due to be staged in Basel from 20 to 28 October 2007, the last tennis tournament of the ATP tour which has associations with a tobacco brand.

Petition available at: <http://petition.globalink.org/view.php?code=federer>

REPORT: Industry efforts undermining evidence linking second-hand smoke with CVD
This report by Elisa Tong and Stanton Glantz appearing in *Circulation*, the Journal of the American Heart Association, concludes that the tobacco industry has attempted to undermine the evidence that SHS causes CVD in order to fight smoke-free regulations, while developing approaches to support new products that claim to reduce harm. It goes on to demonstrate how the industry interest in preserving corporate viability has affected the design and interpretation of their cardiovascular studies, indicating the need for caution in current debates about future tobacco industry regulation and development of reduced-harm tobacco products.

Source: *Circulation*, October 2007

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/reprint/116/16/1845>

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