

EUROPEAN NEWS BULLETIN 224: 28 December 2007 – 10 January 2008

Produced by the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)

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AUSTRIA: Austria Tabak raises prices

Austria Tabak increased the prices for its popular brands by an average of € 0.20 on Thursday 10 January 2008. This price hike accounts for around 6%. The price rise is designed i.a. to feed a hardship fund to support tobacconists, whose income has been suffering as a result of the rise in imports from Austria's neighbouring countries (mainly Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary). Austria's Minister of Finance Wilhelm Molterer had also granted tobacconists a concession to expand their range of products, permitting them to sell drinks etc. as a means of boosting their sales – and also confronting young people with tobacco products and advertising.

Source: Kurier, 9 January 2008

<http://www.kurier.at/geldundwirtschaft/119247.php>

<http://www.kurier.at/geldundwirtschaft/119249.php>

HUNGARY: Health Minister says smoking ban is a top priority

Health Minister Agnes Horvath stated at a press conference held in Budapest on 9 January 2008 that the Health Ministry is drafting a smoking ban similar to the bans which have been implemented in Ireland and France. Hungary has 60.5 deaths from lung cancer per 100,000 citizens, compared with an OECD average of 37.4. More than 30% of the Hungarian population uses tobacco, higher than any OECD country except for Greece, Turkey and the Netherlands. Minister Horvath said: "We plan to join the list of European countries where you can't smoke in closed public places under any circumstances... We want to promote self-care and individual responsibility." The minister announced the plan at a press conference outlining the year's top priorities for the Free Democrats' Alliance

Source: Bloomberg, 9 January 2008

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aiyjPJQc6M6s>

NORTHERN IRELAND: Drive to help women quit smoking

A campaign has been launched to encourage young women in Northern Ireland to quit smoking. More than twice as many young women in the 16 to 19 age-group smoke compared to males of the same age. In addition, almost one-third of mothers smoke before or during their pregnancy. The problem is greatest among mothers under 20. The Health Promotion Agency campaign stresses lesser-known effects, such as mouth cancer and gangrene. Dr Brian Gaffney, Chief Executive of the HPA, said: "Although we now have smoke-free legislation in place we cannot be complacent about the level of smoking in Northern Ireland. Smoking figures for young women aged 16–19 are especially worrying as they are increasing at an alarming rate and sit currently at an all time high." The campaign, which includes television,

radio, online and poster advertising, provides support and advice for young women who want to stop smoking.

Source: BBC News, 8 January 2008

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/7175593.stm

NI Health Promotion Agency press release:

http://www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk/work/Publicrelations/PressReleases/anti-smoking_campaign_targets_young_women.htm

PORTUGAL: Smoking ban comes into effect

The law restricting smoking in public buildings and licensed premises under 100 m², which was passed by the Portuguese parliament in June 2007, came into force on 1 January 2008.

Licensed premises can opt to remain smoking or to become non-smoking. Other buildings for public use (workplaces, shopping centres, schools) can still install smoking rooms, provided these are clearly marked and ventilated. Fines of between € 50 and € 750 are foreseen for contraventions, while licensees and other building owners can be fined between € 50 and € 1000. The legal age for purchasing cigarettes has also been raised to 18.

Source: AFP, 31 December 2007

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jN18N-1JAFYQwIEop6VM6BLfASg>

*** Institutional News ***

EC: HELP News December 2007 published

DG SANCO has published the December 2007 edition of HELP News.

Source: SANCO News, 3 January 2008

HELP News available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/help/newsletter/Newsletter1207/index.htm

EC: HELP campaign receives European Excellence Award 2007

The *HELP - For a life without tobacco* campaign received the European Excellence Award 2007 at a ceremony in Berlin on 13 December 2007. The winners of the European Excellence Award were chosen by an expert jury from 600 entries from all over Europe. The HELP campaign received the award in the category Consumer Health. The jury rewarded the strategic and creative approach to deliver a consistent and powerful message creating a European "brand" for non-smoking and showing that smoking makes people behave in absurd ways.

Source: SANCO News, 7 January 2008

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/help_en.htm

Council: Slovenia takes over EU Council Presidency on 1 January 2008

Slovenia began its six-month leadership of the EU Council Presidency on 1 January 2008. The main priority for the Slovenian Council Presidency is the Lisbon Treaty.

Programme and Priorities of the Slovenian Presidency:

http://www.eu2008.si/en/The_Council_Presidency/Priorities_Programmes/index.html

Calendar of events:

http://www.eu2008.si/en/Meetings_Calendar/index.html

*** Reports/Research/Conferences ***

IARC: *Smokeless Tobacco and Some Tobacco-specific N-Nitrosamines* report published
The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has published its report *Smokeless Tobacco and Some Tobacco-specific N-Nitrosamines* (IARC Monographs Vol. 89). The report can be downloaded at:

<http://monographs.iarc.fr/>

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