

EUROPEAN NEWS BULLETIN 225: 11-17 January 2008

Produced by the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)

*** National Tobacco Control News ***

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*** National Tobacco Control News ***

AUSTRIA: Hoteliers' association supports strict smoking bans

Surprisingly, the presidents of the Austrian hoteliers' association (ÖHV), Peter Peer and Sepp Schellhorn, made a statement at the ÖHV annual meeting on 15 January 2008 in support of a universal smoking ban in all premises. In their statement, they highlighted the real economic situation and the health of both customers and staff in the hospitality sector. Mr Schellhorn stated: "A ban is on its way. The quicker we implement it and the better we prepare ourselves, the greater the level of satisfaction will be. It is also a good thing for businesses, as they need clear regulations. The current practice in Austria of dancing on eggs has to stop. That is why I support a universal ban on smoking in the hospitality and hotel sector – including those premises that are smaller than 75 m²."

Source: ORF, 17 January 2008

<http://salzburg.orf.at/stories/249943/>

Source: ÖHV Editorial, 17 January 2008

<http://www.oehv.at/?seIDM=9TNWVXLU-4RL3-ZU5S-JHUL-8X2LG1ZQA5T3&seIDA=5OM9LCXV-AGV2-QDIE-YR2T-GM86Z2JUVUAV>

BELGIUM: Cigarette sales decline dramatically in 2007

Sales of cigarettes in Belgium in 2007 declined by some 892 m. units compared to 2006 figures, i.e. a fall of 6.7%. The association of tobacco manufacturers in Belgium and Luxembourg Cimabel says that this decline is partly due to reduced consumption, but it is also partly due to consumers purchasing supplies abroad. The association also acknowledges that the smoking ban in workplaces and in the hospitality sector has been a significant factor in encouraging Belgians to smoke less.

Source: Le Vif/L'Express, 14 January 2008

<http://www.levif.be/belga/economie/78-2-33264/forte-baisse-des-ventes-de-cigarettes-en-belgique-en-2007.html>

FRANCE: Health Minister says that smoking ban is being respected by vast majority

French Minister of Health Roselyne Bachelot said that the smoking ban in restaurants and cafés, which came into force on 1 January 2008 is being respected by the vast majority of proprietors, including those in rural areas. The minister did acknowledge that some proprietors were still ignoring the law, and urged them to "respect the health of their fellow citizens", adding that they had a moral obligation to ensure that non-smokers are not exposed to tobacco smoke.

Source: Europe 1, 15 January 2008

<http://www.europe1.fr/informations/articles/788943/interdiction-de-fumer--la-legislation-est-respectee-selo.html>

RUSSIA: Government approves motion to join FCTC

At its first assembly in the New Year on 10 January 2008 the Russian cabinet approved a bill to ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, paving the way for Russia to join the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Parliament has also signalled that it will approve the bill of law. In a statement the government said that approving the bill was in Russia's national interest and that adopting the Convention will favour healthy life-styles and improve public health. Accession to the FCTC will come if and when the bill is passed in the State Duma and is signed by the President.

Source: The Moscow Times, 11 January 2008

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2008/01/11/043.html>

*** Reports/Research/Conferences ***

STUDY: Exposure to smoking in internationally distributed US films affects youth smoking in Germany

Studies of US adolescents have linked exposure to smoking in films with smoking behaviour. It is unclear whether European adolescents are also responsive to film tobacco imagery. A longitudinal study was conducted to assess exposure to smoking in films in 2711 German never-smokers (aged 10 to 16 years). The 398 internationally distributed films represented 80% of the German box-office hits within this period, with the majority (388) produced and/or distributed internationally by US companies. Smoking was present in 74% of the films. Overall, 503 (19%) of the students tried smoking during the follow-up period. The incidence of trying smoking was associated with increased exposure to film smoking. Authors Reiner Hanewinkel and James Sargent conclude that smoking in internationally distributed US films predicts trying smoking among German adolescents, closely replicating findings from a longitudinal study of white US adolescents. Smoking in these films could have important worldwide public health implications.

Source: Pediatrics, Vol. 121 No. 1 January 2008, pp. e108-e117

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/121/1/e108>

STUDY: Combined healthy behaviours can add 14 years to life

Researchers have now concluded that daily exercise, moderate alcohol consumption and sufficient fruit and vegetable intake can add up to 14 years to life expectancy compared to those who fail to adopt these behaviours. The researchers (from the University of Cambridge and the Medical Research Council UK) studied lifestyle-related health determinants in order to quantify the potential combined health impact of certain behaviours. In order to examine the combined impact of changes in lifestyle, they evaluated more than 20,000 men and women aged 45-79 according to four behaviours: non-smoking, physical activity, moderate daily alcohol intake and intake of at least five servings of fruit and vegetables a day. The researchers concluded that "risk of total mortality significantly increased with a decreasing number of health behaviours". Those who had all four healthy behaviours had only a quarter of the mortality risk of those who had adopted none of the healthy behaviours. "Although the trends were strongest for deaths from cardiovascular causes, they were also apparent for deaths from cancer and from other causes," they noted.

Source: EurActiv, 11 January 2008

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/health/study-combined-healthy-behaviours-add-14-years-life/article-169457>

Study: *Combined Impact of Health Behaviours and Mortality in Men and Women: The EPIC-Norfolk Prospective Population Study*

<http://www.plos.org/press/plme-05-01-khaw.pdf>

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This bulletin receives the financial support of the European Commission.