

## **EUROPEAN NEWS BULLETIN 231: 29 February – 13 March 2008**

Produced by the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)

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### **\* National Tobacco Control News \***

BELGIUM: Minister of Health presents cancer action plan

On Monday 10 March 2008 Belgian Minister of Health, Laurette Onkelinx, presented her new National Cancer Plan, which is an ambitious programme for which the government has approved a budget of some € 380 m. over the three-year period from 2008 to 2010. She outlined thirty-two measures which are essential to this programme and which she considers to be realistic. In the course of 2008 all smokers will be entitled to a one-off payment of € 30.00 for their first quitting consultation, followed by € 20.00 thereafter for further sessions, up to a maximum of eight consultations. This figure rises to € 30.00 for pregnant women. Stepping up the fight against tobacco, a total ban on smoking in the hospitality sector and in discotheques has been called for.

Source: La Libre Belgique, 11 March 2008

[http://www.lalibre.be/index.php?view=article&art\\_id=407557](http://www.lalibre.be/index.php?view=article&art_id=407557)

GERMANY: CSU is considering revising smoke-free legislation

Bavarian party CSU is considering weakening the smoking ban in the State of Bavaria. Party leader Huber does not exclude introducing amendments to the law and granting exemptions to beer tents and smaller pubs. Erwin Huber and Premier Günther Beckstein have declared their willingness to discuss the smoking ban to see if there is any room for manoeuvre, although they have stated that there will not be a complete reversal. They have stated, however, that it is rather a matter of "fine-tuning".

Source: Focus, 3 March 2008

[http://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/bayern\\_aid\\_263759.html](http://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/bayern_aid_263759.html)

LUXEMBOURG: Anti-Cancer Society calls for more courageous legislation

Presenting the 2007 Luxembourg tobacco report, Marie-Paule Prost-Heinisch, Director of the Luxembourg Anti-Cancer Society, has called for more courageous legislation. There has been no change in the situation compared with 2006: one quarter of the population is still smoking. More men smoke than women (28% compared to 22%), although female smoking is in fact on the rise, while male smoking is declining. Among 15-17 year-olds the decline in smoking is the most spectacular: falling from 18% to 9%, which is a very positive sign indeed. Nevertheless, among 18-24 year-olds the figure has risen by 3% in the past year (38% if this age group are smokers). This group does not really respond to the anti-smoking legislation and demonstrates that further measures have to be taken. As long as smoking continues to be allowed in cafés and discos, it will retain its normality. Marie-Paule Prost-Heinisch said that tobacco prices have

to be raised to the € 8.00 level, as recommended by the World Bank and the WHO, which would be a significant barrier to youth purchasing.

Source: Le Jeudi, 6 March 2008

<http://www.le-jeudi.lu/edition/article.asp?ArticleId=14176>

SWITZERLAND: Canton of Geneva to go smoke-free on 1 July 2008

The Council of States announced on 3 March 2008 that the smoking ban would enter into force on 1 July 2008, after it had been voted in by the population on 24 February 2008.

Contraventions will be subject to fines ranging from CHF 100 (approximately € 63) to CHF 1000 (approximately € 630). Proprietors will also be subject to the same range of fines. Compliance is to be the responsibility of the Department of Economy and Health.

Source: Le Temps, 3 March 2008

<http://www.letemps.ch/template/transmettre.asp?contenupage=nlreader&page=newsletterdisplay&id=13&NLArtID=12330>

UK: No Smoking Day 2008

National No Smoking Day took place on 12 March 2008. Sheila Duffy, Chief executive of ASH Scotland, called for quitting services to be made more accessible and welcomed the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event aimed at persuading more people to try and quit. However, she also stressed the need to ensure that people have access to support and advice all year round.

Source: Scotsman, 11 March 2008

<http://news.scotsman.com/health/ASH-calls-for-more-visible.3863827.jp>

No Smoking Day:

<http://www.nosmokingday.org.uk/smokers/index.htm>

#### **\* Institutional News \***

EC: Commission Decision on adoption of work plan for 2008

The Commission Decision of 27 February 2008 on the adoption of the work plan for 2008 for the implementation of the second programme of Community action in the field of health (2008-2013), and on the selection, award and other criteria for financial contributions to the actions of this programme was published on 29 February 2008.

Source: SANCO News, 3 March 2008

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:056:0036:0062:EN:PDF>

EC: Together for Health: Health Programme (2008-2013) fact-sheets available

New fact-sheets and a booklet on the Health Programme 2008-2013 are now available from DG SANCO.

Source: SANCO News, 3 March 2008

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/documents/prog\\_factsheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/documents/prog_factsheet_en.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/documents/prog\\_booklet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/documents/prog_booklet_en.pdf)

EC: Second Infoday in Luxembourg on 17 March 2008

As the Infoday in Luxembourg on 12 March 2008 attracted great interest, many applicants were put on the waiting list. Therefore, the PHEA has decided to organise another Infoday on 17 March 2008 in order to provide all interested persons with opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the new Health Programme and on the current calls for proposals.

Source: SANCO News, 4 March 2008

[http://ec.europa.eu/phea/calls/infoday2008\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/phea/calls/infoday2008_en.html)

EC: *Health & Consumer Voice* published

The February 2008 edition of the *Health & Consumer Voice* has been published by DG SANCO. This edition contains an article on the Community Tobacco Fund: raising awareness on dangers of tobacco.

Source: DG SANCO, 6 March 2008

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/consumervoice/cv\\_22008\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/consumervoice/cv_22008_en.pdf)

EC: *Health-EU Newsletter* published

The March 2008 edition of the *Health-EU Newsletter* has been published by DG SANCO.

Source: DG SANCO, 6 March 2008

[http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter/11/newsletter\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter/11/newsletter_en.htm)

**\* Reports/Research/Conferences \***

WCToH: Abstract submission is now open

The 14<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCToH), which is due to take place in Bombay, India from 8 to 12 March 2009, has opened its abstract submission process.

Abstracts must be submitted online via the conference website. The deadline for abstract submission is 23 May 2008.

Source: WCToH, 1 March 2008

[http://www.14wctoh.org/call\\_abstracts.asp](http://www.14wctoh.org/call_abstracts.asp)

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