



EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR SMOKING PREVENTION
RESEAU EUROPEEN POUR LA PREVENTION DU TABAGISME aisbl

31 May 2007

**World No Tobacco Day 2007:
Create and Enjoy 100% Smoke-free Environments**

Dear Minister,

As you are well aware, comprehensive smoke-free policies in all enclosed public places and workplaces have already been introduced in several European Union Member States: Ireland (2004), Scotland (2006), Wales (2007), Northern Ireland (2007). England is due to introduce comprehensive smoke-free legislation in July 2007. Norway, Iceland and Spain also have comprehensive smoke-free policies. Italy (2005), Malta (2005) and Sweden (2005) have introduced smoke-free policies, while providing the option of separate smoking rooms. France, Finland and Lithuania have likewise decided to introduce comprehensive smoking bans in public places.

Today, on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2007, the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP) would like to congratulate the Ministers of Health in all those countries for having the courage to realise that smoking kills 650,000 Europeans a year and passive smoking kills some 80,000 Europeans a year, that it is a workplace carcinogen, which it is necessary to eliminate without delay. ENSP strongly believes that a comprehensive ban on smoking in all public places and workplaces (including the hospitality industry) is the only way to protect workers and all individuals from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. ENSP wholeheartedly supports Commissioner Kyprianou's initiatives to tackle smoking and exposure to smoke, thus improving the health and well-being of all Europeans. The Green Paper *Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level*, presented by the European Commission is an important and timely document in the history of this journey towards a smoke-free continent.

At the same time, however, ENSP would like to encourage Health Ministers in all countries not yet having comprehensive smoke-free legislation to take action to protect the health of their workers. The right to health protection should include hospitality workers, who cannot be treated as second-class citizens, without protection from workplace carcinogens.

Yours sincerely,

*Elizabeth Tamang
President
European Network for Smoking Prevention*