



Lifting the smokescreen: 10 reasons for going smokefree Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Passive smoking currently kills 79,000 European Union (EU) citizens a year. 72,000 of these deaths are due to second-hand smoke (SHS) exposure at home and 7,000 are due to SHS exposure at work.
- Exposure to tobacco smoke at work in the hospitality industry accounts for one death every working day in the EU.
- All workers have the right to be protected from tobacco smoke and their employers are legally obliged to take measures to prevent all workplace SHS exposure.
- The only effective way to provide this protection is to enact comprehensive workplace smoking legislation.
- Ventilation does not protect workers from second-hand smoke exposure.
- Voluntary agreements do not protect workers from tobacco smoke exposure.
- Smoke free workplace laws lead to increased quit attempts.
- Research evidence shows that smoke free policies also reduce tobacco consumption.
- The benefits of smoke free policies are particularly notable in the private sector of the economy.
- The long-term benefits of smoke free policies will enhance countries' human capital, leading to further economic growth in line with the Lisbon objectives.
- Tobacco companies have claimed that smoke free workplace legislation in bars and restaurants would have a negative impact on business. Independent and reliable research provides clear evidence that this claim is false. Almost 100 studies, produced before 31 August 2002, from around the world failed to find a negative impact in studies based on objective and reliable measures.
- More recent information on the effect of smoking bans in New York, British Columbia, Ireland, Norway or New Zealand showed no negative impact on business.



- Support for smoke free policies amongst the public in Europe is strong. A majority of people now support comprehensive smoke free laws in all workplaces, including bars and restaurants.
- Support for smoke free laws rises after their introduction – amongst smokers as well as non-smokers.
- The public and workers comply with smoke free legislation.
- All EU Member States should enact comprehensive smoke free legislation to make all workplaces and enclosed public spaces smoke free at the earliest possible opportunity.
- When doing so the Limassol recommendations should be taken into account

Comprehensive smoking bans in all public and workplace enclosed spaces is the most effective way to protect smokers and the public.

Based on current EU smoking prevalence levels and the impact of the smoking ban in Ireland, and if all countries brought in and enforced Irish-style bans, about 5-10 million smokers would give up smoking

The Smoke Free Partnership is a new strategic, independent and flexible partnership between Cancer Research UK, the European Respiratory Society and the Institut National du Cancer.

It aims to promote tobacco control advocacy and policy research at EU and national levels in collaboration with other EU health organisations and EU tobacco control networks.

Smoke Free Partnership

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