Armin König

Mayor of the Municipality of Illingen

Comments on the European Commission's Green Paper on a Smoke-Free Europe

Question 1) A total ban on smoking without exemption.

Given the enormous health risks and the medical consequences of active and also passive smoking, a total ban on smoking would appear to be the only effective method of protection. Therefore, and after many municipal-level discussions, I am in favour of a total ban on smoking in public places.

Question 2) Policy options:

Binding pan-European legislation concerning both smoking in the workplace and the amendment of Directive 67/548/EEC, with extensive scope for intervention, including in the case of failure to act on the part of national governments.

Question 4) Aspects which have so far not been taken into sufficient consideration.

The matter of protecting allergy sufferers should be given greater importance and discussed, as hundreds of thousands of Europeans are affected by this problem ("time to act").

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