

European Commission

Directorate- General Health and Consumer Protection

Unit C6- Health Measures

Answer to question 1

The Cyprus National Coalition for Smoking Prevention – CNCSP - representing the Cyprus Medical Association, four different Medical Associations and other N.G.O's , all fourteen in number, considering the dangerous health effects of the SHS believes that the only legitimate response, as the Green Paper recognizes, is a complete ban on smoking in all enclosed work and public places and endorses, therefore, all the advantages included under Comprehensive Smoke-free Regulation of the Green Paper document, in answer to question one.

Regarding Cyprus, however, where the existing law provides that the proprietor of such public places, may, if he so wishes, seclude a space within his establishment for smokers, provided it is well and effectively ventilated - "Smoke free regulation with exceptions" - the CNCSP believes that for the next 2 to 3 years this should be strictly enforced before we move to a total ban. In the meantime, also, a well prepared campaign on the effects of SHS and the way this problem is tackled successfully in other countries, will create among the general public the necessary atmosphere for a total ban the next 2-3 years.

The Minister of health has publicly adopted the "Strategic Plan for Tobacco Control in Cyprus and has appointed a committee to work for the realization of the Plan. The Plan – which provides for a complete ban – has been prepared by the Tobacco Research Program at the Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health in association with Harvard School of Public Health .

Answer to Question 2

Concerning the form of EU intervention to achieve the smoke-free objectives, the CNCSP believes that a further Commission or Council Recommendation could enjoy success provided that it is adopted to recent legislative and evidential developments in the Member States and beyond. In this respect Member States could be urged to adopt comprehensive legislation, develop mass media education campaigns stress the importance and relevance of Article 8 of the F.C.T.C and COP guidelines etc etc.

Answer to Question 3

Not to our mind at the moment.

Answer to Question 4

We consider the Commission Green Paper, as well researched document a timely contribution of E.U to the global debate on smoke free places.

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