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## Questions

1) Comprehensive and fully enforced legislative action in all public places and workplaces without exemptions.

Tobacco smoke is classified a carcinogenic substance by IARC (IARC, Tobacco Smoke and Involuntary Smoking, IARC Monographs Vol 84, 2004). Legislation is necessary in protecting exposure to tobacco smoke. There is an obligation to protect people from all known health hazards, chemicals and other substances damaging health.

Total ban to prohibit smoking is feasible everywhere, it protects everyone equally. Its implementation is easy and cheap. As majority of smokers would like to stop smoking these measures support their desire to stop smoking.

Smoke-free environments help smoke-free to become a social norm. Smoke-free environment encourages children and adolescent not to initiate smoking, undermines attraction to become a smoker, and the marketing tactics of the tobacco companies.

There is a lot of evidence that hospitality industry does not suffer from economic losses. Majority of people are non-smokers and banning smoking at all enclosed public spaces and workplaces are supported by public opinion.

2) Binding legislation is the only solution if there is political will to promote health and well being of the citizen. The Treaty obliges high level protection in health in the European Union.

Binding legislation would impose a comparable, transparent and enforceable basic level of protection from the risk of environmental tobacco smoke throughout the EU member states. Legislation is necessary as voluntary measures do not work and do not treat all people equally. To be effective legislation should be clear in explicit terms, enforceable and sanctions strong enough.

3) First of all the Treaty stipulates that a high level of health protection shall be ensured in all Community policies and activities. Therefore health risks associated with passive and active smoking should be taken into account in all matters relating to tobacco. Also it should be taken into account the human right to the highest possible standards of health and the right to the healthy environment that are stated in the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

4) According to a Finnish study (Heloma A. Impact and Implementation of the Finnish Tobacco Act in Workplaces. People and Work Research Reports 57. Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. Helsinki 2003) smoke-free workplaces have been highly effective to reduce smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption among employees in Finland. The legislation proved to be more effective in diminishing employee exposure to passive smoking than the work-place

specific restrictions. Legislative actions seemed decrease smoking prevalence among employees with less than a college education. This finding suggest that legislation restricting smoking increases equity between population groups. The positive impact is also likely to be reflected in decreasing of tobacco-related diseases in the coming years.

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