

European Commission Directorate-General Health and Consumer Protection  
Unit C6 – Health Measures  
B – 1040 Brussels

Subject – Green Paper. Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level

The *Confederação Portuguesa de Prevenção de Tabagismo* (COPPT, Portuguese Confederation on Smoking Prevention) is a confederation of 16 national non-governmental associations, medical and non-medical, who are active in the areas of health, education, and the environment, among others, and are directly or indirectly dedicated to preventing and restricting smoking in Portugal.

The COPPT applauds the efforts made and work done by the European Community (EC) to bring a Citizens' Europe free of environmental smoke ever closer.

The recently published Green Paper and Eurobarometer survey both make a marked contribution to the fight against smoking at national and European level.

The following is our opinion on the questions raised at the end of the Green Paper:

#### Question 1

We have no hesitation in recommending a total ban on smoking in all public spaces and workplaces. Not only is the scientific evidence clear, but the examples set by and results obtained in the countries that opted for this are further justification for this proposal.

In this regard, there is nothing different or particular about Portugal that could justify taking another approach here.

## Question 2

Only the option described in point 5 – “binding legislation” is of any relevance to Portugal and to Europe.

This solution has the advantage of reducing the differences between Member States. Moreover, the technical criteria would be similar, and the influence of the anti-smoking lobby at national level would be reduced.

## Question 3

In the light of the *status quo* in Portugal, we would suggest that the following are essential for the success of the anti-smoking policies:

- a) continuation and further development of the assessment of the different programmes to control smoking and of those involved in them at national and European level;
- b) continuation and further development of campaigns to raise public awareness. The impact of the “Help” campaign was minimal in Portugal. Something bigger and better is needed;
- c) support for the NGOs working for smoking prevention in the different countries, and for local best practice programmes.

Regards,

The Chairman of the COPPT

Dr Luís Rebelo  
e-mail [lrebelo@sapo.pt](mailto:lrebelo@sapo.pt)

This paper represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumer Protection DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.