

A Response to the European Commissions' Green Paper 'Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: Policy options at EU level' from Gallaher Norway AS and Gunnar Stenberg AS (a member of the Imperial Tobacco Group).

Gallaher Norway AS and Gunnar Stenberg AS are established tobacco suppliers on the Norwegian market. Although Norway is not a member of the European Union, EU policy can be of relevance for Norway through the EEA-Agreement hence the aforementioned parties feel that it is appropriate to provide this response. As we are agreed upon the subject matter we are providing a common, rather than two separate companies, response.

Questions:

(1) Which of the two approaches suggested in Section IV would be more desirable in terms of its scope for smoke-free initiative: a total ban on smoking in all enclosed public spaces and workplaces or a ban with exemptions granted to selected categories of venues? Please indicate the reason(s) for your choice.

Our companies support tailored, practical and effective solutions that accommodate the legitimate interests of those who do not wish to be exposed to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), those who wish to smoke in comfort in socially appropriate or traditionally adult venues and business owners who want a role in deciding how to implement solutions that work for their customers and their employees.

In answer to the above question, we support the adoption of an EU-wide smoking ban with exemptions. Based on the best practice of workable solutions already in place around the world, we support Option 2: "Smoke Free Regulations with Exemptions". We believe any restrictions should include the following key features:

Smoking is banned in all enclosed public places and workplaces; the following exemptions apply:

- Any employer or responsible person, including owners or managers within the hospitality sector (e.g. restaurants, pubs and bars), should be able to elect to set aside physically separated and ventilated designated areas of their premises, where adults who choose to smoke may continue to do so.
- Special rules apply to the hospitality sector (e.g. restaurants, pubs and bars) with a primarily adult clientele and with a useable area less than 100 sq. m., where the person with overall responsibility can choose to make such an establishment fully non-smoking or fully smoking. The use of ventilation should be considered by the legislator, when the establishment allows smoking throughout.
- Permanent or temporary places of residence should be explicitly exempted from the restrictions (including for example: prisons, residential care homes, a percentage of hotel rooms).
- Private membership clubs should be able to allow their members to choose whether to allow smoking or to be smoke free.
- A specific exemption for research, development and testing of products should be allowed, to enable the continuation of existing regulatory testing, quality control and research activities.
- Only consenting employees would be expected to work in designated parts of premises where smoking is allowed.
- Smoking is not banned in outdoor areas including those that comprise part of public places and workplaces and in partially enclosed public places and workplaces.

Furthermore, exemptions should not apply to educational facilities for minors, healthcare facilities and places providing services primarily to minors.

- Signage is mandatory when the place or part of it is exempted from the ban so that the public can determine where smoking is permitted.

In summary, our companies support a ban on smoking in enclosed work places and public places, with exemptions; and believe that, as stated among the options within the Green Paper, this can be best achieved through proportionate, coherent and workable regulation.

Furthermore, in line with the EU policy of Better Regulation, we believe that any measure should be developed through dialogue and consultation with all interested stakeholders, including the tobacco sector.

We fully support the establishment of a wide platform process to facilitate discussion and to aid identification of practical approaches, such as the use of ventilation as advocated in specific exemptions. As subsidiaries of Confederation of European Community Cigarette Manufacturers (CECCM) member companies we support CECCM's proposal to engage in further discussions on this issue, on our behalf.

Our companies believe that this is a proportionate response, which for all practical purposes, avoids involuntary exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in enclosed public places and workplaces in the EU, while accommodating the legitimate interests of all stakeholders.

(2) Which of the policy options described in Section V would be more desirable and appropriate for promoting smoke-free environments? What form of EU intervention do you consider necessary to achieve the smoke free objectives?

Our companies support binding legislation covering both enclosed workplaces and public places. At EU level, we are unsure what legal basis could be used to achieve this. We therefore believe that the most efficient policy option is a Commission or Council Recommendation, which sets out the minimum requirements for individual States.

Gunnar Stenberg AS (a member of the Imperial Tobacco Group) and Gallaher Norway AS

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