



Dear Director-General,

The Augustów District Tobacco Growers' Association has studied with interest the content of the Green Paper "Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level". We would like to make use of the possibility offered by the consultation process and set out the opinion of tobacco producers on this issue.

The Augustów District Tobacco Growers' Association is in favour of a smoking ban being adopted throughout the European Union, subject to exemptions. For only such a solution will take the interests of all sides into account. Bearing this in mind, our organisation supports "Option 2" as set out in Section IV, i.e. a ban on smoking but with exemptions granted to selected categories of venue.

The Augustów District Tobacco Growers' Association is in favour of a compromise taking due account of the positions not only of people who do not wish to be exposed to the effects of environmental tobacco smoke but also of adult persons who intend to smoke in suitably adapted places. What is more, we are convinced that appropriate solutions must also make allowance for the position of company owners by providing scope for their position to be taken into account in the decision-making process in the interests of their clients and staff, and tobacco producers. We are in favour of every employer having the possibility of designating parts of his premises as areas for the use of smoking adults.

Our organisation takes the view that any and all restrictions must allow for the following:

*"Smoking should be banned in enclosed public places and workplaces, subject to the following exceptions:*

- *in the hospitality sector, e.g. restaurants, public houses and bars, proprietors/employers should be allowed to provide ventilated areas on their premises where adults will be permitted to smoke. In smaller premises, setting aside a separate place for smokers may prove impractical, and in such cases proprietors/employers should be allowed to make a choice, after consultations with their staff, as to whether they wish to make their premises a completely "no-smoking" or completely "smoking-allowed" place;*
- *in the case of hospitality premises, such as restaurants, public houses or bars, with a mainly adult clientele and a usable surface area of less than 100 square metres, special rules should apply whereby the person responsible for the premises should be allowed to decide whether to make them an entirely "smoking-allowed" or entirely "no-smoking" place. On the issue of whether companies should be allowed to permit smoking throughout their premises, the legislator should take due account of the possibility of providing ventilation;*
- *it should be obligatory to clearly mark entrances to any premises where smoking is allowed in some or all areas inside, so that people can make an informed decision on whether to enter such premises;*
- *permanent or temporary residential premises should be excluded from restrictions, e.g. a proportion of hotel rooms;*
- *private clubs and organisations should be allowed to give their members the right to make a choice on the smoking issue.*

*Where smoking is allowed in particular areas of premises, staff must have the right to*

*refuse to work in those areas.*

*Smoking should not be banned outside premises which accommodate a mixture of public spaces and workplaces and partially enclosed public spaces and workplaces."*

The Augustów District Tobacco Growers' Association is opposed to smoking by underaged persons and is therefore in favour of a smoking ban in educational premises for underaged persons, as well as in other places where services are provided only for underaged persons.

In our opinion, the European Commission should recommend to Member States minimal requirements regarding the promotion of a smoke-free environment, while the countries themselves should implement such a recommendation in the form of national legislation.

We believe that the comments and opinions set out above will add a balanced and reasonable voice to the consultation process on the Green Paper "Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level".

Yours sincerely,

[Stamp:]      CHAIRMAN

of the Executive Board of the

Augustów District Tobacco Growers' Association

[Signature]

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