

Dear Mr Kyprianou,

I read in the press that you presented the Green Paper "Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level" a few days ago.

I enjoy tobacco and will not let you treat me like a common criminal. Tobacco was and still is a legal consumer product, yet nowadays it seems to have become the subject of a witch-hunt. Tolerance between smokers and non-smokers is what we need, not the regulation frenzy of your bureaucrats in Brussels.

This principle of tolerance has worked well for decades without government interference. It is only because you apparently have no sense of enjoyment that you want to prohibit mine.

How far do you intend to go? What will you prohibit next? The odd glass of wine or beer? Chocolate or jelly babies? It is people like you who have long since ruined my appreciation of Europe.

Furthermore, rules like these do not regulate the market but simply encourage smuggling. Al Capone only became so powerful because of prohibition. And if the health system allowed differentiations to be made between smokers and non-smokers, as well as between the sporty and the non-sporty, we would not have the problem at all. Citizens would decide for themselves whether it was worth having to pay higher health insurance contributions for the pleasure of smoking.

Stick to your area of competence and leave me my pleasures! Remember, a Commissioner's worth is not measured by how many new laws he has proposed during his time in office, but by whether he has managed to advance the cause of Europe and improve the lot of its citizens. In my book, you are still miles away from this goal.

I look forward to hearing your views.

Regards,

Sören Maßmann

Kretschmann Tabakwaren
proprietor: Sören Maßmann e.K.

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