

In response to the European Union's Green Paper I would like to give you my opinion on the subject.

1) I believe the best option is **to ban smoking totally and without exception** in all enclosed and semi-enclosed public places, including outdoor areas around entrances to buildings, where passive smokers cannot avoid exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). The commitment to a tobacco-free Europe must be 100%, since this is the only way of *denormalising* smoking (a form of drug dependency when all is said and done) and protecting all citizens equally. Allowing exceptions (as happens in Spain) simply leads to confusion and non-compliance (ignorance of the legislation on the part of citizens, and, even worse, the authorities; establishments that do not signpost correctly whether smoking is permitted or not, and where people therefore end up smoking, etc). It also contributes to making it seem "normal" to smoke in enclosed spaces, where you harm the person alongside you, and, ultimately, to smokers smoking in non-smoking areas. In addition, the exceptions make second-class citizens of workers in the catering and hospitality sector, who are not protected against exposure to ETS at their place of work, unlike other workers.

2) The best strategy is **binding legislation**, an unequivocal token of the importance that the EU gives to health protection, and the only way of guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for all EU citizens faced with the harm that passive smoking can cause. This would definitely mean amending the Dangerous Substances Directive to classify ETS as a carcinogen, and beginning by banning smoking at places of work. In parallel with this (and starting as soon as possible, since it may be a long process), the necessary legislative process should be launched to draft binding legislation that would ban smoking in all enclosed places in the EU.

3) I believe that the data presented in the report amply demonstrate the need for the EU to commit itself wholeheartedly to the anti-smoking cause.

4) I would just like to express thanks for giving ordinary citizens the chance to express our opinions, which I hope will be taken on board. I have total confidence in Europe moving towards a smoke-free future.

Greetings:

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