

## **European Commission provides € 5.2 million to help lower income countries in tobacco control**

The European Commission has decided to provide a € 5.2 million contribution to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to help middle and low income countries tackle tobacco control effectively.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)<sup>1</sup>, an evidence-based international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organisation, is the basis for governments worldwide to implement effective tobacco control policies and to address the risk factors of tobacco consumption and exposure.

The main focus of EU support will be to assist with needs assessment in the area of tobacco control in order to help these countries to fully implement the FCTC and to better integrate tobacco control policies into their national health programmes and strategies.

This contribution complements the various global efforts to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, which are on the rise worldwide. It is estimated that tobacco use is one of the leading global causes of preventable death, killing more than five million people worldwide each year<sup>2</sup>.

The UN High Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases on 19 and 20 September 2011, in its political declaration<sup>3</sup> committed to "*accelerate implementation by States parties of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,...*"

This funding will help the FCTC secretariat to scale up work already undertaken on joint needs assessment, capacity building and enhancing international cooperation.

The funding comes from the EU's "Investing in People" programme which pursues a broad approach to development and poverty reduction in partner countries as part of its efforts to reach the UN's Millennium Development goals. This extra-budgetary contribution to the FCTC Secretariat, which will run over three years, is additional to the payments of the EU and the individual EU Member States in support of WHO in general and the FCTC in particular.

The details of this action under the "Investing in People" programme can be seen under: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/ap/aap/2011\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/ap/aap/2011_en.htm)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/fctc/en/>

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009: Implementing smoke-free environments*. The full report is available at: <http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/2009/en/>.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A%2F66%2FL.1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%2F66%2FL.1&Lang=E)