

## Resolution

### 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference Tobacco or Health Basel, Switzerland

Each year, in the EU countries alone, 650,000 people die as the result of tobacco consumption. The tobacco industry is trying to make up its losses on the European and North American markets at the expense of the world's poorest populations on other continents.

In order to make further progress towards a smoke-free Europe, the participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Tobacco or Health Conference note that in the coming years special account will have to be taken of the following requirements of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control:

- All countries have to become Parties within one year
- Creation of 100% protection by means of comprehensive smoke-free legislation in line with the guidelines on Article 8 of the WHO FCTC, adopted in July 2007 at the second Conference of the Parties in Bangkok must be accomplished. Protection should include a total ban on smoking in work and public places, including bars, restaurants, health and educational facilities and public transport
- Regular increases in tobacco taxes should be policy at EU and Member State level, and the number of cigarettes that can be imported for personal consumption between EU countries should be reduced to 200 per person
- The adoption of a protocol on illicit trade of tobacco products by the Conference of the Parties of the WHO FCTC that will eliminate the incentive to be involved in the illegal tobacco trade for those who facilitate the supply of illicit tobacco products (tobacco manufacturers) and for those who organise the illicit trade of tobacco products (criminal organisations)
- Pictorial health warnings on the two main sides of tobacco product packages, supplemented by the telephone number of the national quitline, with the aim that the whole pack would become a platform for mandatory health promotion messages
- The introduction of a comprehensive ban on the advertising, sales promotion and sponsoring of tobacco products, including on the Internet and at the point of sales. In particular, measures are to be taken to ensure that films cannot be used as a platform for the promotion of smoking
- Effective smoking cessation should be promoted through training programmes for health professionals and pharmacological therapies for nicotine dependence should be reimbursed
- More emphasis has to be put on identifying and studying high-risk target groups for smoking and tobacco-related morbidity and mortality (i.e. gender, socio-cultural groups, age groups etc.).

The implementation of all these measures will require adequate funding. A minimum of € 3 per capita per year should be devoted to tobacco prevention and control policies. One possible source of funding could be the imposition of a special tax on tobacco products.

In order to be able to successfully progress towards a smoke-free Europe, it is necessary that – besides the health organisations – other sectors also become involved in curbing the tobacco epidemic.

The participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference Tobacco or Health in Basel 2007 appeal to governments and civil society in all European countries to not slow down the battle against tobacco but to continue and intensify their efforts for comprehensive tobacco control on a high level in order to protect public health and save millions of European lives.

Basel, 13 October 2007