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Administrator: Marie-Louise Luther

To board of EFA

Initiatives for smoke-free environments in European countries

It is important to work for national legislation for more smoke-free environments in European countries. In Sweden the Government is now investigating if national legislation about smoke-free places indoors should be extended to also cover outdoor public places. The Public Health Agency made a proposal to the Government 2014 to make the following places smoke-free; entrances to public buildings, places waiting for public transport, outdoor dining areas, playing-grounds for children and public outdoor arenas for sports, concerts etc. This is coordinated with implementation of the European Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) to national legislation. We would like to know how EFA supports or can support member states in Europe to work for national legislation and more smoke-free places even outdoors, for example by spreading smoke-free initiatives? The document about second-hand smoke on EFA:s website is a good start, but we wonder how this is put into practice in the European countries? 2) We have got some information already from EFA about activities (see bil 1).

World Health Organization (WHO) says in a new report 1) “The importance of 100% smoke-free laws” There is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke. Therefore, comprehensive smoke-free laws are crucial to protect public health. China ratified the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2005. The treaty requires Parties to adopt laws or regulations to make all public places, workplaces and public transport smoke-free. A national smoke-free law based on Article 8 of the WHO FCTC and the Guidelines on Protection from Exposure to Tobacco Smoke (Article 8 Guidelines) is the only effective way to protect all of China’s population from the harms of tobacco smoke.

The Swedish Astma- and Allergy Association propose EFA to:

- Present how EFA supports and will support member states to introduce more smoke-free initiatives by extending national laws based on article 8 in the WHO FCTC for smoke-free places both indoors and outdoors in public places.

Mikaela Odemyr
EFA Board Member

Source:

1) “Smoke-free policies in China – Evidence of effectiveness and implications for action
http://www.pro.who.int/china/tobacco_report_20151019_en.pdf

2) Vulnerable groups rights to be protected to second- hand smoke;
<http://www.efanet.org/images/2014/04/ECToH.pdf>



Bil 1) Activities and information from EFA, presented so far - from Roberta Savli 151118:

As far as EFA's activities, we have in our website some presentations on the effects of second-hand smoke on people with allergy, asthma and COPD, and especially with best practices from members. Swedish Asthma and Allergy Association figures there too. You can have a look at the following links:

- EFA' presentation at the European Parliament on the need of children to be protected from second-hand smoke (in the framework of World No Tobacco Day and International Children's Day 2015): [http://www.efanet.org/images/2015/20150526 -
_EFA_When_parental_right_to_smoke_clashes_with_childrens_right_to_health.pdf](http://www.efanet.org/images/2015/20150526_-_EFA_When_parental_right_to_smoke_clashes_with_childrens_right_to_health.pdf);
- EFA's blog on our participation at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health 2015: <http://www.efanet.org/patients-corner/blog/48-roberta-savli/2625-tobacco-or-health-that-is-the-question-for-our-societies> + our presentation on patients' rights not to be exposed from second-hand smoke: <http://slideonline.eu/recordings/2015/15wctoh/> (insert Savli in the speakers' name);
- EFA's presentation on patients' rights not to be exposed to second-hand smoke at the European Conference on Tobacco or Health 2014: <http://www.efanet.org/images/2014/04/ECToH.pdf>.

If you are looking for recent information on the situation of smokefree legislations in Europe, you can have a look at the following pages developed by two other organisations based in Brussels and that work exclusively on tobacco control:

- European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP) Towards a smokefree Europe: <http://www.ensp.org/extra/smoke-free-europe/index.html>;
- Smokefree Partnership (SFP) map on smokefree legislations in Europe: <http://www.smokefreepartnership.eu/map/index.html>.

You can also have a look at the latest Tobacco Atlas, published in 2015, to which we have contributed: <http://www.tobaccoatlas.org/> (and especially the chapters on second-hand smoke, <http://www.tobaccoatlas.org/topic/secondhand-smoke/>, and smokefree policies, <http://www.tobaccoatlas.org/topic/smoke-free-policies/>).

At EFA we have a working group that deals with environmental determinants and we are now working on an EFA definition of indoor air quality that takes into consideration second-hand smoke. It would be great if you, Marie-Louise, would like to take part in next teleconferences of the group and we could discuss the document you have just sent us there too.

Last, but certainly not least, the European Commission's work plan for 2016 foresees the proposal for a legislation on safe workplaces. We would like, together with other partners, this document to mention second-hand smoke as one of the risk factors that need to be eliminated for the workers to be protected. We might think about organising a public event around this topic in 2016.

I hope this helps as introductory information, but please do not hesitate to let me know should you have additional questions.