



RESOLUTION:

TOBACCO SERVICES INITIATIVE

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting
in Belgrade, Serbia on 4th of October 2014

Recognising:

- Tobacco is responsible for the death of over 700,000 people each year within the European Union;
- In 2013, the Irish Government published a communication for a 'Tobacco Free Ireland' by 2025;
- In 2004, the WHO published a communication for a 'Framework Convention on Tobacco Control', which was also ratified by the European Council;
- The work which has been done so far in relation to tobacco control by the World Health Organisation- Europe and the European Union in highlighting its dangers, devising and initiating policy to deter people from ever using tobacco;
- The support of the British Medical Association for the ban of cigarettes for any person born after the 1st January 2000.

Acknowledging:

- More than 600,000 of those who die within the EU are the result of direct tobacco use. Moreover, 79,000 of these are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. Unless urgent action is taken, the annual death toll will rise to unmanageable levels;
- Nearly 80% of the world's one billion smokers live in low and middle-income countries where the burden of tobacco-related illness and death is heaviest;
- Approximately one person dies every forty six seconds due to tobacco, within Europe this accounts for one in 7 adult deaths. Up to half of current users will eventually die of a tobacco-related disease;
- Tobacco users who die prematurely deprive their families of income, raise the cost of health care and hinder economic development;
- As there is a lag of several years between when people start using tobacco and when their health suffers, the epidemic of tobacco-related disease and death has just begun;

- Tobacco caused 100 million deaths in the 20th century. If current trends continue, it may cause one billion deaths in the 21st century;
- Considerable amounts of EU policy on tobacco control was initiated and developed by the Europe against Cancer programme which began in 1987. This now needs to be updated in order to achieve the following.

YEPP calls:

- On the European Commission and the World Health Organisation-Europe to expand and develop the efforts made thus far in order to prevent a health pandemic from occurring.
- For increased education and cessation services on the dangers of tobacco use. Studies have shown smokers who are aware of the dangers of tobacco, actively aim to quit. National comprehensive cessation services with full or partial cost-coverage are proven to reduce the numbers of people choosing to smoke.
- On European governments to continue to prioritise the tobacco control measures first set out in WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) which were ratified by the European Commission in 2004.
- For a cross-European proposal of guidelines for tobacco control, to develop a minimum level of control measures for each of the EU member states. By implementing these measures, governments reduce the heavy burden of disease and death that is attributable to tobacco use or exposure.