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Smokefree Laws Inevitable Worldwide, Says New International Report

More Than 200 Million People Fully Protected from Secondhand Smoke

European Governments Must Meet Smokefree Challenge

More than 200 million people worldwide will be fully protected from secondhand smoke at work and in public places by 1st July 2007, according to a report published today (May 31). The report concludes that the dramatic success of smokefree laws makes it inevitable that comprehensive smokefree air legislation will be introduced worldwide, including in all European Countries.

The report, *Global Voices for a Smokefree World*, was released by the Global Smokefree Partnership to coincide with the World Health Organization's World No Tobacco Day.

"We are proud that European Countries such as Ireland or the UK are in the lead of countries taking action on secondhand smoke" said Fiona Godfrey of the European Respiratory Society. "According to the report, by 1st July 2007, at least 65 million European citizens will be protected by 100% smoke free laws in these two countries alone."

However, the report warns that with each year governments delay taking action, billions are left exposed to the lethal chemical cocktail of secondhand tobacco smoke, including 390 or so million people living in the other European countries of the EU.

The Smoke Free Partnership believes that these hard-hitting messages present a strong case for all EU governments to meet the challenge to make all indoor workplaces and public places 100% smokefree without delay.

"The scientific evidence is beyond debate – secondhand smoke kills. In Europe about 650 thousand people die each year because of smoking and a further 80 thousand adults are killed by secondhand smoke. The only effective protection is legislation that makes all workplaces completely smokefree," said Jean King from Cancer Research UK. "Our experiences show that EU governments have nothing to fear from comprehensive smokefree legislation. We know that smokefree laws work. They are already proving to be a resounding success in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and we're counting down the days to the 1 July when England will go smokefree too. Workers everywhere in Europe deserve the same protection as workers in the UK."

This year's World No Tobacco Day comes at a crucial time. A surge of new smokefree air laws is expected because of the world's first ever public health treaty – the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). This treaty is now law in 146 countries – representing more than three quarters of the world's population. Under the treaty, governments are required to protect people from secondhand smoke in indoor workplaces and public places. The treaty's governing body is expected to adopt Guidelines at its June meeting that will clarify that governments must implement strong smokefree laws to meet their treaty obligations.

As part of the FCTC, 25 of the EU 27 Governments have already made a commitment to protect their citizens from secondhand smoke.

Also, the European Commission is currently consulting on what action it should take to promote smokefree air, and protect EU citizens from secondhand smoke. A strong policy recommendation from the Commission would help persuade European countries without effective legislation to act. A recommendation that reflects the scientific evidence and the best examples of 100% smokefree laws would play a big part in making the future in Europe smokefree.

The report and map have been produced as part of the Global Voices Campaign to promote 100% smokefree laws. [The Smoke Free Partnership](#) is one of more than 400 organisations and individuals worldwide that have already signed up to support the campaign.

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Notes for Editors

1. The Smoke Free Partnership is a strategic, independent and flexible partnership between the European Respiratory Society, Cancer Research UK and the Institut National du Cancer. It aims to promote tobacco control advocacy and policy research at EU and national levels in collaboration with other EU health organisations and EU tobacco control networks. Please note that the Smoke Free Partnership is a member of the global smokefree partnership and has been involved in the development of the Global Status report and the materials for the campaign. For more information about the Smoke Free Partnership, visit www.smokefreepartnership.eu
2. 100% smokefree laws are those which include all indoor workplaces and public places. Designated Smoking Rooms are not permitted.
3. Bermuda, Iran, Ireland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Uruguay and Wales all have implemented 100% smokefree laws protecting people from secondhand smoke in all public places and workplaces, including bars, restaurants, cafes and pubs. Many subnational jurisdictions have introduced similar laws.
4. The report: *Global Voices for a Smokefree World*, and the high resolution map can be downloaded from www.globalsmokefreepartnership.org . The map can be freely reproduced, if attributed to the Global Smokefree Partnership.

5. The Global Smokefree Partnership is a new multipartner initiative formed to promote effective smoke-free air policies worldwide. Partners include Action for the Promotion of Smoke-free Environments (APALTA), Action on Smoking and Health London, American for Nonsmokers Rights, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Cancer Research UK, Coalition for Tobacco Control Pakistan, European Respiratory Society, FCTC Alliance Philippines (FCAP), French National Cancer Institute (INCa), Global Tobacco Research Network, HealthBridge India, HERO-Uganda, International Nongovernmental Coalition Against Tobacco, International Union Against Cancer, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Institute for Global Tobacco Control, Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance, Pfizer, the World Heart Federation and Action on Smoking and Health. The Partnership is coordinated by the American Cancer Society and the Framework Convention Alliance.
6. For more information on the Global Smokefree Partnership and its Global Voices campaign, visit: www.globalsmokefreepartnership.org
7. For more information on the FCTC, visit www.fctc.org
8. WHO World No Tobacco Day is 31st May. This year's theme is Smokefree Environments. For more information on World No Tobacco Day, visit www.who.int/tobacco/resources/publications/wntd/en/