



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 30 November 2009
16777/09 (Presse 350)

Council acts against tobacco smoke exposure

The Council today adopted¹ a recommendation calling on the member states to take legal action to protect their citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke in indoor workplaces, indoor public places, public transport and, if appropriate, other public places by 2012 (*15937/1/09 REV 1 + [16066/1/09 REV 1](#) + [16066/09 ADD 1 REV 2](#)*)². Member states are also advised to strengthen measures to reduce exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke of children and adolescents. These key elements of a smoke-free policy should be complemented by the adoption of supporting measures such as measures to promote cessation of tobacco use, the use of colour photographs as health warnings and the provision of information on services supporting the cessation of tobacco use on tobacco packages.

The Commission is invited to consider, within the context of a possible revision of the tobacco products directive 2001/37, all product-related measures aimed at reducing the attractiveness and addictiveness of tobacco products. The Commission is also called upon to analyse the impact of plain packaging, including on the functioning of the internal market.

¹ The decision was taken, without debate, at a meeting of the Council in charge of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers Affairs in Brussels.

² Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia abstained.

P R E S S

Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is a widespread source of mortality in the European Union. According to conservative estimates, 79 300 adults including 19 200 non-smokers died in the EU in 2002 as a result of environmental tobacco smoke exposure at home (72 000) and at work (7 300). Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke is considered to be particularly dangerous to children and adolescents and could increase the likelihood of their taking up smoking.
