

No smoke without fire

Health groups appalled at European Commission's failure to release Council recommendation on smoke-free environments

Hot on the heels of the recent finding of maladministration from the Ombudsman's inquiry regarding European Commission meetings with tobacco lobbyists,¹ today (January 31st) the Commission has not brought forward the proposed Council recommendation on smoke free environments.

This flies in the face of the Commission's own planning² to include the smoke free recommendation as part of a cancer 'prevention package' along with vaccine preventable cancers. Failure to recognise that preventing tobacco and novel tobacco products use should be key to Europe's Beating Cancer plan is an appalling lack of judgement. Without this focus the targets of the cancer plan will simply not be met.

This is the latest delay or inaction, both the Tobacco Products Directive and the Tobacco Taxation Directive have been held up, and now inexplicably even a non-binding recommendation to Member States.



¹ <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/news-document/en/168641>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2023-003001-ASW_EN.html