

Health

SMOKING AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ([FCTC](#))

Objective

To protect public health establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework at global level to reduce tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Relevance for the hospitality industry

Over the last years, all EU developments in relation to the fight against tobacco took place in the broader context of the WHO FCTC, which was adopted in May 2003. The European Community was among the first signatories of the treaty.

Under this global health treaty, all parties having ratified it (166 parties as of September 2009, including the European Community and 26 Member States), have to adopt measures “*providing for protection from exposure to tobacco smoke in indoor public places, [...] and [...] other public places*”.

The WHO adopted detailed guidelines for the implementation of Article 8 of the FCTC on “Exposure to tobacco smoke”. These strict guidelines are incorporated as an annex to the Commission proposal of June 2009 for a Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments.

State of progress

Adopted by the World Health Organization on 21 May 2003 and entered into force on 27 February 2005.

The FCTC was signed by the European Community on June 2003 and ratified on June 2005.

Content

The FCTC calls for comprehensive measures in the fields of:

- Advertising, sponsorship and promotion of tobacco products;
- Packaging and labelling;
- Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke (the signatories of the Convention have to adopt measures providing for protection from passive smoking in indoor workplaces, indoor public places, etc.);
- Sales to minors.

HOTREC position

HOTREC shares the concerns of public authorities in relation to public health and smoking. However, HOTREC believes that the issue of smoking in public places should be regulated at national level, reflecting local attitudes and demands of society.

See also:

HOTREC [reply](#) of March 2008 to the impact assessment consultation by DG SANCO on “An EU smoke-free initiative”

HOTREC reply of May 2007 to the Green Paper consultation

Official references

WHO [Guidelines](#) for the implementation of Article 8 of the FCTC, June 2007

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ([FCTC](#)), June 2003

See also:

Commission proposal of 30 June 2009 for a Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments ([COM\(2009\)328 final](#))

Eurobarometer ([253](#)): "Survey on Tobacco. Analytical Report" of March 2009

Council Decision of 2 June 2004 concerning the conclusion of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ([2004/513/EC](#))