



THE ISTANBUL DECLARATION



DECLARATION OF THE 6th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH

We, the participants,

GATHERED here in Istanbul, Turkey from 26th to 29th March 2014;

RECOGNIZING that the spread of the tobacco epidemic continues to be a problem in the countries of Europe with serious consequences for public health;

RECOGNIZING that scientific evidence has unequivocally established that tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke cause death, disease and disability;

ALARMED by the increase in smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption by women, young girls and young men;

RECOGNIZING the need to be alert to the efforts of the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts;

RECOGNISING the legally binding nature of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the obligation of all Parties to the FCTC to implement effective tobacco control measures including laws, policies and programmes;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. All governments in the European Region should move swiftly to the full and effective implementation of the FCTC;
2. Governments and civil society organizations should work together to ensure that all relevant government officials, including those who work outside of the health sector, have knowledge of the FCTC and their government's legal obligations under it;
3. We further urge all government to adopt EU Tobacco Products Directive;
4. We urge Parties to the FCTC to take specific note of Article 4.2(d), which emphasizes "*the need to take measures to address gender-specific risks when developing tobacco control strategies*" and to take active steps to incorporate gender-specific measures into all their tobacco control measures;
5. We further urge Parties to the FCTC to mandate and support a Working Group to make recommendations to the 7th Meeting of the COP on the development of gender-specific indicators for tobacco control and the incorporation of national gender-specific programmes;
6. We urge Parties to the FCTC to take specific note of Article 5.3 of the FCTC and its Guidelines concerning the need to protect public health policies with respect to tobacco control from the influence of the tobacco industry and its allies;
7. We further urge Parties to the FCTC to take immediate steps to implement Article 5.3 fully through the adoption and dissemination of specific policies and/or laws;
8. We urge Parties to the FCTC to take steps to increase the effectiveness of strategies designed to implement Article 12 of the FCTC, which obliges Parties to take steps to promote and strengthen effective public awareness of the harms of tobacco use;
9. We further urge Parties to ensure that specific public awareness campaigns are developed to cater to the needs of women, including pregnant women, and young people:
10. We urge parties to adopt;
 - a) strong guidelines on taxation of tobacco products at the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to WHO FCTC in October 2014
 - b) a new tax directive in line with those FCTC guidelines in 2016.

Sixth ECToH, Istanbul, 29 March 2014