Resolution on the Union's position on the World Health Organisation WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

2001/2617(RSP) - 13/11/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted the resolution on the follow-up to Parliament's opinion on the European Union's position in view of the third round of negotiations for a WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Parliament supports the objective of a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control set by the World Health Assembly in its resolution of 24 May 1999. Overall, it welcomes the progress made in the first and second round of negotiations on the Framework Convention. It broadly agrees with the guiding principles, the general obligations and the measures proposed for the Framework Convention and considers that there is a need to priorities the measures according to the impact on which they have on public health and the environment. The Commission and the Member States are called upon to: - support a provision explicitly stating that the Convention and the tobacco regulations should apply to all tobacco products; - support provisions in Section 1.5 of the proposed Convention for preventing and combating illicit trade in tobacco products, and furthermore to come forward with proposals that criminal laws be enacted against counterfeiting where they do not currenty exist and that the provisions for the destruction of all contraband and counterfeit cigarettes be extended to also cover destruction of the equipment and machinery used to produce counterfeit products; - support a prohibition of sales of tobacco products to persons under the age of 18; - support a provision in the Convention that would require manufacturers to include clear and conspicious health warnings in tobacco advertisements; - support the EC delegations that are pushing for a conclusion of an effective Convention which provides the appropriate framework for concrete measures to substantially reduce tobacco consumption. Lastly, Parliament believes that the standards for testing, measuring, designing, manufacturing and processing such products should be developed and harmonised under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and that financial support for the implementation of the Convention in developing countries should be considered in due course.