Green Paper 'Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level'

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The Council held an exchange of views as a contribution to the consultation launched by the Commission Green Paper on the policy options at EU level for tackling involuntary exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (passive smoking).

The debate focused, in particular, on the following topic: Effective and appropriate measures and level (national or EU) at which they should they be taken.

During the debate, the delegations referred to the national binding measures already taken and applied in their countries, with the aim of stopping smoking, in particular in enclosed or public areas. They recalled that the more efficient measures involve a ban on tobacco advertising; prevention of addiction in relation to young people; incentives for people to change their habits voluntarily rather than binding measures; information campaigns about the consequences of smoking for health.

A number of these measures would be more efficient if applied at local or regional level, even if financed by European contributions.