

## 5.6 CP Declaration on smoking

Lisbon, 1992 (CP 92/67)

The Heads of Delegation of the *Standing Committee of Doctors of the European Community*, meeting in Lisbon on 4 April 1992 and acting on the suggestion of the CP subcommittee on “Preventive Medicine and Environment”, Noting the position of the *Council of Ministers of Health* of 17 May 1990 and 11 November 1991,

Noting the position of the *World Health Organization* and the declaration on tobacco of the *European Forum of Medical Associations and WHO* meeting in Basle on 31 January 1992,

1. *Assert* that smoking is the principal avoidable cause of premature death in Europe;
2. *Are concerned* by the prevalence of smoking among adolescents in several European countries;
3. *Regret* the lack of consistency in E.C. policies which simultaneously provide for measures in favour of tobacco producers and for a Programme against cancer;
4. *Recommend* that physicians of the European Community, considering that they are seen as role models, stop smoking;
5. *Urge* the Commission of the European Community and Member States to:
  - adopt as soon as possible the Directive on advertising of tobacco products;
  - strengthen the Programme “Europe against cancer”;
  - facilitate an increase in the price of tobacco by raising taxes as an efficient counter-incentive to consumption;
  - promote, jointly with the European medical profession represented by the *Standing Committee*, an effective health education campaign against smoking;
  - develop a firm policy for all matters relating to tobacco by 31 May 1993.

## 5.7 Position concerning self-medication

Cascais, 1993 (CP 93/123 Final)

Position of the standing committee of doctors of the European community on the dangers of self-medication on public health  
Adopted at the plenary meeting held on 13 November 1993 in Cascais, Portugal

There are attempts at reducing calls for doctors and at shifting part of the costs of medicinal products from the government budget to the household budget by promoting self-medication. This policy is erroneous and dangerous to patients' health.

Self-medication is based on self-diagnosis and delays true diagnosis. Errors of self-diagnosis can lead,

and have been proven to do so, to errors in medication – which at the best is inappropriate – that can also often be harmful if not tragic (late screening of cancer).

The delay in providing the appropriate therapy and the true diagnosis as well as the use of inadequate medicinal products can further lead to a worsening of the disease thereby requiring greater and more costly health care.

## 5.8 Motion concerning Europe against cancer program

Madrid, 1989 (CP 89/83, 93/102 Final)

At its meeting on the 27th of May 1989 in Madrid, the Standing Committee of Doctors of the EC:

- gives its full support to the 1989 European campaign in the fight against cancer.
- prevails upon European doctors, during this year of information, to engage in activities during the European Week against Cancer, scheduled for the 9th to the 14th of October, under the form of an open day or whatever other type of initiative.
- asks of all the delegations to implement the appropriate actions in each country or to associate themselves with those of the European Community Commission, together with the Leagues, hospitals and other relevant bodies.

At its meeting on the 26th and 27th of May 1989 in Madrid, the Standing Committee of Doctors of the EEC, being aware of the actions taken against smoking and of the ad hoc directives and proposals for directives, considering the present scientific data, supports the efforts during the European Year against Cancer to reduce the tar content of cigarettes.

## Motion of the Standing Committee of Doctors of the E.C. concerning the E.C. “Europe against cancer” programme

Considering the changes that have taken place within the Directorate General V of the European Commission,

considering the exemplary partnership developed in the frame of the “Europe against Cancer” Programme, the Standing Committee of Doctors of the E.C., meeting in Plenary Assembly on 13 November 1993:

- fully supports the “Europe against Cancer” Programme which was able to:
  - mobilize people responsible for health and social issues in each country;
  - transmit a clear and consistent message to the peoples of the European Union through the ten commandments of the European Code against Cancer;