

Sarajevo, 30th May 2017

Open letter to the Members of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Support for the adoption of the Law on Tobacco Control in the Federation of BiH

Honourable Parliamentarians,

In its upcoming session, the House of Peoples of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina will discuss the draft law on tobacco control. We commend the Federal Ministry of Health for preparing this law, and the Parliament of the Federation of BiH for the positive steps taken in support of this important regulation. Once adopted, this law will help protect the health of the entire population, including in particular the health of children, and will reduce costs associated with the use of tobacco products.

Currently, the situation regarding tobacco consumption in Bosnia and Herzegovina is worrying: the high prevalence of tobacco use is one of the key factors contributing to the rise of non-communicable diseases in the country. In the Federation of BiH alone, data shows that 8,400 persons die annually from diseases attributed to tobacco smoking. Exposure to second-hand smoke is very high: 53% in public places such as cafes and restaurants and 44% in workplaces. Costs associated with tobacco smoking in the Federation of BiH are estimated to amount to some 420 million KM annually, out of which 100 million KM relates to health expenditures and 320 million KM to economic losses. The new law will especially help protect second-hand smokers, adults as well as minors, from the health damage inflicted on them by others.


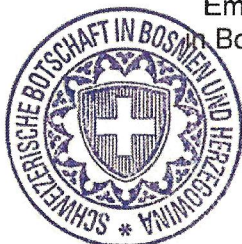
The current legal situation in the Federation of BiH falls short of full implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2009, and is not harmonised with the EU legislation in this area.

There is wide evidence of the health harm and economic costs of tobacco use around the world. The experience globally, and in our countries specifically, shows that the introduction of a comprehensive legislation on tobacco control did not have any negative fallout for owners or operators of bars, cafes and restaurants. At the same time, it had a substantial positive impact on the population's health as well as on countries' economies. We are confident that the adoption and enforcement of the Law on Tobacco Control in the Federation of BiH will have equally positive effects, and will help address the alarming consequences of tobacco use in the Federation of BiH under the current legislation.

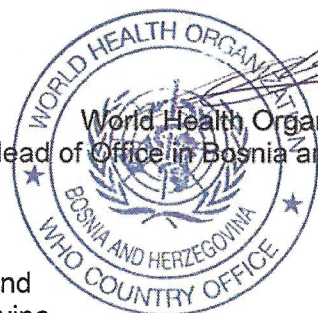
Yours sincerely,



Embassy of Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ambassador



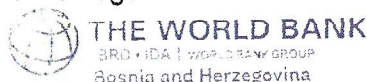
World Health Organisation
Head of Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Delegation of the European Union
in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ambassador



World Bank
Head of Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Sarajevo, 30.05.2017.

Otvoreno pismo članovima Parlamenta Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine

Podrška usvajanju Zakona o kontroli duhana u Federaciji BiH

Poštovani članovi Parlamenta,

Na predstojećoj sjednici, Dom naroda Parlamenta Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine će raspravljati o Nacrtu zakona o kontroli duhana. Pozdravljamo napore koje je uložilo Federalno ministarstvo zdravstva na pripremama ovog Zakona i pozitivne korake Parlamenta Federacije BiH na podršci ovoj važnoj regulativi. Nakon usvajanja, ovaj će zakon pomoći zaštititi zdravlja cjelokupne populacije, uključujući zdravlje djece, te će smanjiti troškove povezane sa upotrebom duhanskih proizvoda.

Trenutno je situacija u pogledu konzumacije duhana u Bosni i Hercegovini zabrinjavajuća: velika zastupljenost upotrebe duhana jedan je od ključnih faktora koji doprinose porastu nezaznih bolesti u zemlji. Samo u Federaciji BiH podaci pokazuju da godišnje umire 8.400 osoba od bolesti povezanih sa konzumacijom duhana. Izloženost duhanskom dimu je vrlo visoka: 53% na javnim mjestima kao što su kafići i restorani, a 44% na radnim mjestima. Troškovi povezani sa pušenjem u Federaciji BiH godišnje iznose oko 420 miliona KM, od čega se 100 miliona KM odnosi na zdravstvene izdatke i 320 miliona KM na ekonomske gubitke. Novi zakon posebno će pomoći u zaštiti od pasivnog pušenja kako odraslih osoba tako i djece od štete po zdravlje koju im nanosi duhanski dim.

Postojeći pravni okvir u Federaciji BiH ne omogućava potpunu provedbu Okvirne konvencije o kontroli duhana koju je Bosna i Hercegovina ratificirala u 2009. godini i nije usklađen sa zakonodavstvom EU-a koje reguliše ovu oblast.

Postoje mnogobrojni dokazi o štetnosti po zdravlje i ekonomskim troškovima upotrebe duhana širom svijeta. Iskustvo na globalnom nivou, a posebno u našim zemljama, pokazuje da uvođenje sveobuhvatnog zakonodavstva o kontroli duhana nije imalo negativnih posljedica po rad barova, kafića i restorana. Istovremeno, imalo je značajan pozitivan utjecaj na zdravlje stanovništva, kao i na privrede zemalja. Uvjereni smo da će usvajanje i provedba Zakona o kontroli duhana u Federaciji BiH također imati pozitivne učinke i pomoći će u rješavanju alarmantnih posljedica upotrebe duhana u Federaciji BiH prema važećem zakonodavstvu.

S poštovanjem,

Svjetska zdravstvena organizacija, Šef ureda u BiH

Ambasada Švicarske u BiH, Ambasador

Delegacija Evropske unije u BiH, Ambasador

Svjetska banka, Šef ureda u BiH