Passive Smoking from a Human Rights Perspective

Panagiotis Behrakis, MD PhD FCCP

Pulmonologist-Intensivist

Former Associate Professor of Athens University and Harvard School of Public Health

Director of Institute of Public Health- American College of Greece

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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΠΝΕΥΜΟΝΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ

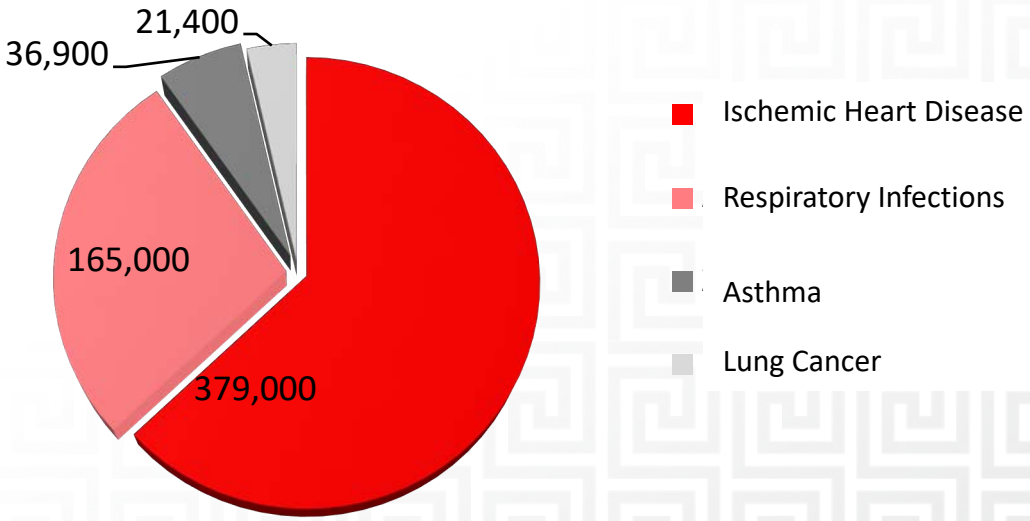
HELLENIC THORACIC SOCIETY

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

I, Panagiotis Behrakis, declare,

- I have no previous work for or with the tobacco industry and organisations or individuals financially linked to the tobacco industry.

Global effects of Exposure to Passive Smoking



800.000 deaths of non-smokers every year.

250,000 are children.

Protection of Human Life.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), 1948.

Article 3. *"Everyone has the **right to life**, liberty and security of person."*

Lisbon Treaty, 2009.

Article 2. *"The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and **respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail."*

Article 3. 1. *"The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and **the well-being of its peoples**."*

United Nations Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1996.

Article 6. 1. *"Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. **No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life**."*

Protection of Women and Children. (1/2)

Lisbon Treaty, 2009.

Article 2. "*The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity* ***and equality between women and men prevail***.

Article 3. *"It shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations* ***and protection of the rights of the child****."*

Protection of Women and Children. (2/2)

United Nations Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

Article 6. 1. *"States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. 2. States Parties shall ensure to the* ***maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child****."*

Article 24. (c) *"To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and* ***risks of environmental pollution****;"*

Article 24 (2, d). *"To ensure appropriate* ***pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers****;"*

Protection of the Worker.

United Nations Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966.

Article 7 (b).***"Safe and healthy working conditions;"***

Lisbon Treaty, 2009.

Article 153. 1. *"With a view to achieving the objectives of Article 151, the Union shall support and complement the activities of the Member States in the following fields: (a) improvement in particular of the* ***working environment to protect workers' health and safety****; (b)* ***working conditions;*** *… (j)* ***the combating of social exclusion****…."*

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) 1948.

Article 23 (1). *"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just* ***and favourable conditions of work*** *and to protection against unemployment."*

Protection of Public Health.

Lisbon Treaty, 2009.

Article 168. 1. *"**A high level of human health protection shall be ensured** in the definition and implementation of all the Union's policies and activities. Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards **improving public health, preventing human illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health.** Such action shall cover the fight against the major health scourges, by promoting research into their causes, their transmission and their prevention, as well as health information and education, and monitoring, early warning of and combating serious cross-border threats to health. **The Union shall complement the Member States' action in reducing drugs-related health damage,** including information and prevention."*

Protection from Tobacco use.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2007.

Article 8. *Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke.*

1. *Parties recognize that* ***scientific evidence has unequivocally established that exposure to tobacco smoke causes death, disease and disability****.*

2. *Each Party shall adopt and implement in areas of existing national jurisdiction as determined by national law and actively promote at other jurisdictional levels the adoption and implementation of effective legislative, executive, administrative and/or other measures,* ***providing for protection from exposure to tobacco smoke in indoor workplaces, public transport, indoor public places and, as appropriate, other public places****. .*

Greek students raise voice against smoking

31 May 2013 / 21:05:28 GRReporter 0 273

Petition
10.329 Greek Students Demand Passive Smoking to be Treated as a Human Rights Issue

31 May, 2013

Passive smoking in closed public spaces is a widespread form of violence, oriented mainly against small children and weak population groups, such as those suffering from lung or heart problems…

…We, as academic citizens of this country, take a decisive stand and ask from the European Commission and the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP) to act in all directions in order to highlight and to recognize officially that passive smoking is a major international issue, which violates the human rights of health, work and the protection of women and children.

"90% of students who took part in the poll state that smoking in the country is out of control. The same percentage say that they did not have any problem buying a pack of cigarettes while they were at high school," states Panagiotis Behrakis, chairman of the National Steering Committee for Tobacco Control.

"90% of students who took part in the poll state that smoking in the country is out of control. The same percentage say that did not have any problem buying a pack of cigarettes while they were at high school," states Panagiotis Behrakis, chairman of the National Steering Committee for Tobacco Control.

The law banning smoking in public places has been in force in Greece since 2011. However, it has not been observed. **"There is no political will to impose the restriction in practice,"** says Behrakis.

"In Greece, there has been a long-lasting flirtation between government and tobacco producing companies. They exert pressure on political decisions, which prevents the true application of the restrictive measure," the specialist is adamant.

Recent statistics related to smoking show a positive trend of change that is not yet crucial to improve public health.

For the first time in many years, the World Health Organization notes that consumption of cigarettes in Greece has fallen below 20 billion pieces per year and it is no longer among the top ten countries with the highest number of smokers per capita. The data of the Ministry of Finance confirm these observations. From 2008 to 2012, the consumption of tobacco products fell by 34%. According to experts, this is due mainly to the increase in the price of cigarettes and to the reduced household incomes. However, 35% of Greeks still smoke more than one pack a day.

“Smoke-free environments from the Human Rights Perspective”, November 5th 2013.

European Parliament

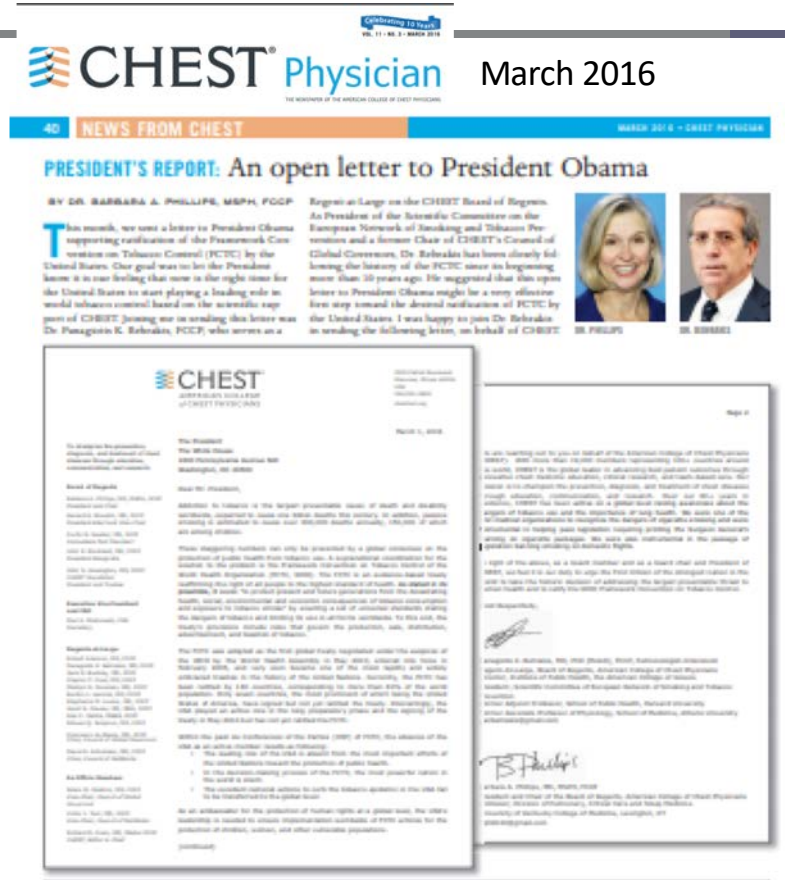
Brussels- European Parliament: Expert conference for tobacco control, 2015

Brussels- European Parliament: Expert conference for tobacco control, 2016

Cape Town Declaration on Human Rights and a Tobacco-free World, 2018

We, participants in the 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, on 7-9 March 2018, and civil society organizations as well as individuals from across the globe, are firmly committed to promoting and protecting public health and human rights in relation to the tobacco epidemic, which kills 7 million people each year globally, and agree to the following general principles and call to action to achieve a tobacco-free world.

Bucharest Declaration on Human Rights and a Tobacco Free Europe, March 2019.



CHEST Physician March 2016

40 NEWS FROM CHEST

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: An open letter to President Obama

BY DR. BARBARA A. PHILLIPS, MSPH, FCCP

- As an ambassador for the protection of human rights at a global level, the USA's leadership in the implementation of FCTC articles for the protection of children, women, and other vulnerable population from passive smoking needed.
- In light of the above, as leaders of the American College of Chest Physicians, we feel it is our duty to urge the United States to take the historic decision of addressing the largest preventable threat to human health and to ratify the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Thank you.

ARS Questions

1. Looking at passive smoking as a violation of various human rights, which do you think are the most important? Or the most critical?
2. Do you believe that smoking in general, should be considered a human rights issue?