

European Communities

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ORAL QUESTION (O-87/77)

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with debate pursuant to Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure by Mrs Vera SQUARCIALUPI on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Community policy against smoking

The serious harm which smoking causes to human health becomes more evident every day, as unanimously borne out by scientific reports compiled all over the world. Among smokers there is a worrying increase in lung cancer, bronchitis, emphysema and cardiovascular diseases, while the effects of tobacco consumption by young people and expectant mothers appear ever more serious.

In view of the increasing number of deaths recorded among smokers, of the serious effects on people's health, and of the high costs all states have to pay for the smoking habit, does the Commission not consider it desirable to wage a vigorous campaign against the consumption of tobacco and its effects? In particular does it not consider it essential, without delay:

1. to harmonize legislation in the Member States with respect to restrictions on smoking and regulations governing the sale of tobacco;
2. to ban from all the mass communications media any publicity whether open or surreptitious, in favour of smoking;
3. to study and apply effective methods of health education designed to discourage people (particularly the young) from smoking;
4. to organize a large-scale programme for
 - (a) research on less harmful varieties of tobacco or substitute products;
 - (b) study of diseases caused by tobacco on its own or in combination with other pollutants;
 - (c) research on more suitable ways of combating the harm caused by smoking to human health;
 - (d) the adoption of measures to support any countries that take steps against smoking.