



Press Release

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United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland top new European ranking on tobacco control, while Austria, Germany and Luxembourg are at bottom

Porto - Portugal, March 23 2017: The new Tobacco Control Scale launched today at the 7th European Conference on Tobacco or Health (ECToH) shows United Kingdom as a fourth time winner while three countries, Austria, Germany and Luxembourg continue to disappoint with extremely poor scores.

A new ranking report describes the results of a survey of tobacco control activity in 35 European countries in 2016. The tobacco control scale quantifies the implementation of tobacco control policies at country level, and is based on six policies described by the World Bank, which they say should be prioritised in a comprehensive tobacco control programme.

The new ranking is being presented today at the 7th European Conference on Tobacco or Health (www.ectoh.org) in Porto by Luk Joossens of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL). Countries spend less than 2 Euros per capita on tobacco control.

"This is wonderful news that Portugal has become green in the new ranking, but it is a cautious green and we shall continue our efforts to not fall back into red. I strongly believe that by collaborating with the Health Ministry, we will be able to climb higher in the ranks!" says Vitor Veloso, MD, President of the Portuguese League hosting this 7th ECToH, and Vice-President of ECL.

Dr Sakari Karjalainen, President of ECL, welcomes the ranking update as "an important policy tool in encouraging countries to strengthen their weak spots in tobacco control."

The Russian Federation was included in our survey for the first time and was doing well in advertising restrictions and smoke free policies, but the score attributed to prices was low. Romania made spectacular progress jumping to 7th place from 19th in 2013.

"Overall, countries which failed to undertake new initiatives lost points and fell in the ranking. The countries that are leading tobacco control in Europe are those that have comprehensive tobacco control policies," states Luk Joossens, the main author of the report.

Six countries (UK, France, Ireland, Hungary, Norway and Slovenia) adopted plain packaging legislation, although only the UK and France had plain packs at the point of sales on 1 January 2017.

Since 2013, nine countries have introduced a smoking ban in private cars when minors are present. (Ireland, UK, France, Finland, Italy, Malta, Cyprus, Lithuania and Slovenia).

The full report can be downloaded at www.tobaccocontrolscale.org.

Annex: European countries ranked by total TCS score in 2016, Joossens and Raw

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Ranking 2016 (ranking 2013)		Country	Price (30)	Public place bans (22)	Public info campaign spending (15)	Advert-ising bans (13)	Health warnings (10)	Treat-ment (10)	Total (100)
1 (1)	–	UK	26	22	3	12	9	9	81
2 (2)	–	Ireland	20	22	2	13	5	8	70
3 (3)	–	Iceland	20	17	13	13	4	2	69
4 (5)	▲	France	19	18	1	11	9	6	64
5 (4)	▼	Norway	20	17	3	13	4	6	63
6 (9)	▲	Finland	16	18	3	13	5	5	60
7 (19)	▲	Romania	17	19		8	5	7	56
8 (7)	▼	Spain	14	21	1	9	4	6	55
9 (11)	▲	Hungary	15	17		11	5	5	53
9 (13)	▲	Netherlands	14	15	3	9	5	7	53
9 (5)	▼	Turkey	17	19		7	5	5	53
9 (11)	▲	Sweden	14	15	1	11	5	7	53
13 (7)	▼	Malta	17	12	1	11	5	5	51
13 (15)	▲	Italy	15	14	2	9	5	6	51
15 (20)	▲	Poland	14	11	1	11	5	8	50
15 (24)	▲	Portugal	17	11	1	10	5	6	50
17 (13)	▼	Belgium	14	15	1	8	5	6	49
17 (10)	▼	Ukraine	11	19		13	4	2	49
17 (new)		Russian Fed.	6	19		13	4	7	49
20 (15)	▼	Bulgaria	16	11		11	5	4	47
21 (18)	▼	Switzerland	13	11	8	2	5	7	46
21 (20)	▼	Estonia	12	12		11	5	6	46
23 (15)	▼	Denmark	13	11	1	8	5	7	45
23 (23)	–	Serbia	21	11		9	1	3	45
23 (26)	▲	Croatia	16	11	1	12	1	4	45
26 (32)	▼	Cyprus	16	8		11	1	8	44
26 (24)	▼	Latvia	14	12		9	5	4	44
28 (20)	▼	Slovenia	13	15		9	1	5	43
28 (29)	▲	Lithuania	12	13	1	8	5	4	43
30 (27)	▼	Slovakia	11	10		9	5	6	41
31 (31)	–	Czech Rep.	14	9		8	5	4	40
31 (29)	▼	Greece	16	7		6	5	6	40
33 (28)	▼	Lux.	5	15		9	1	7	37
33 (33)	–	Germany	13	11		4	5	4	37
35 (34)	▼	Austria	11	8		7	5	5	36

About the 7th European Conference on Tobacco or Health (ECToH)

www.ECToH.org

The European Conferences on Tobacco or Health (ECToH) are organized every three years by prominent cancer leagues, uniting international experts to discuss the latest developments in tobacco control. The conferences aim to present the most up to date advocacy trends, showcase successful tobacco control campaigns and provide a platform for experts to exchange information. ECToH conferences provide high level plenary sessions, workshops and networking opportunities, all of which aim to highlight collaboration in tobacco control, with a forward looking vision in the fight against tobacco.

European and global experts are gathering in Porto, Portugal 22-25 March 2017 on the occasion of the 7th European Conference on Tobacco or Health, organized by the Portuguese League against Cancer, under the auspices of the Association of European Cancer Leagues.

About the Portuguese League against Cancer

www.ligacontracancro.pt

Founded in 1964, the Portuguese League Against Cancer bases its action on the principles of Humanization and Solidarity, assuming itself as a national reference entity in the support to cancer patients and families, stimulating the training and investigation in oncology and enhancing health promotion and cancer prevention, with emphasis to smoking prevention.

About the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

www.europeancancerleagues.org

ECL is a pan-European, non-profit organization established in 1980. It is an alliance of national and regional cancer societies. Located in Brussels, ECL is unique in that it is an exclusive platform for cancer leagues at the national and regional level to collaborate with their international peers. ECL's vision is a Europe Free of Cancers, and its mission is to influence and improve cancer control and cancer care in Europe through collaboration between its members in their fight against cancer, and to influence EU and pan-European policies. The major fields of activity for the member cancer leagues include cancer prevention, public information, professional education and assistance, as well as information services and support for cancer patients and their families and relatives, participation in, and support for, cancer research and advocacy and awareness campaigns.

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