

PRESS RELEASE

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The pharmaceutical industry endorses the “Smoke-Free Air Space”

AİFD: “RESTRICTING TOBACCO USE WILL MAKE TURKEY HEALTHIER”

The research-based pharmaceutical industry gave its support to the ban on the use of tobacco and tobacco products indoors and in businesses as of July 19, 2009. Engin Güner, the Vice-Chairperson of the Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (AİFD) said, “Consumption of tobacco products, of cigarettes in particular, is causing enormous losses to our country both health-wise and economically. We support this decision of our Ministry of Health and trust that this ban shall make Turkey healthier.”

Istanbul, July 17, 2009. As Turkey prepares for the ban on use of tobacco and tobacco products indoors and in public offices, educational and training institutions, and in recreational businesses like restaurants, cafes, clubs, beerhouses and coffee-shops effective Monday, July 19, 2009, the research-based pharmaceutical industry declared its support for all steps taken in that direction.

In a statement before the implementation of the ban, Engin Güner, the Vice-Chairperson of the Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (AİFD), made the following remarks: “Consumption of tobacco products, of cigarettes in particular, is causing enormous losses to our country both health-wise and economically. Serious health problems face not only smokers, but also others who are forced to become passive-smokers when they are in the same environment. When we take into account the medical costs, losses of labor and production, in addition to deaths and great suffering from smoking-related diseases, the cost of this habit is estimated at 8 to 10 billion dollars annually.”

Güner also said: “This new initiative of the Ministry of Health will make Turkey healthier. We have already started seeing the benefits of the limited ban that was implemented earlier. After July 19, the ban should be strictly enforced and everyone should adopt this new practice. AİFD, being the common platform of 39 research-based pharmaceutical companies who produce innovative and original drugs that prolong and raise the quality of human life, shall support all steps taken in that direction. A healthier Turkey is the common goal of us all.”

There are 1.3 billion cigarette addicts

Currently, the number of cigarette addicts is estimated to be 1.3 billion globally, 84% of which live in the developed world. The number of smokers is expected to climb to 1.7 billion globally by year 2025.

Toxic chemicals contained in the cigarette smoke include carbon monoxide, arsenic, methanol, DDT, cadmium, butane, acetone, naphthalene and ammonium.

Sometimes, the health problems suffered by passive-smokers may surpass those of actual smokers. The side-stream smoke has more nicotine and contains a higher concentration of carcinogens than the main-stream. Not only passive-smokers are prone to respiratory diseases, but their risk of getting a cardiovascular disease is also raised by 20 to 70%.

About the Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies

Founded in 2003, the Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies consists of 39 biotechnology and R&D oriented pharmaceutical companies, including Abbott, Actelion, Alcon, Astra Zeneca, Amgen, Astellas, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Chiesi, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eczacıbaşı-Baxter, Ferring, Fresenius Kabi, Fresenius Medical Care, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, İ.E. Ulagay, Indentis, Johnson&Johnson, Lilly, Lundbeck, Merck Serono, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Nestle, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Nutricia Klinik Beslenme, Pfizer, PharmaSwiss, Pierre Fabre, Reckitt Benckiser, Sanofi-aventis, Schering-Plough, Servier, Solvay İlaç Türkiye, UCB Pharma, Wyeth, which are responsible for the greater part of new drug research worldwide.