

*Lettera campione*



*Al Ministro della Salute*

GS/dn/144/2004

Roma, March 5, 2004

*Dear Minister,*

In more recent years, Italy has been extremely active in fighting the use of tobacco. In fact we have made laws that prohibit smoking in bars and Restaurants, pubs, offices and public transportations, including trains.

On the other hand Italy is a producer of tobacco and so we are afraid that linking actions against smoking to limitations in tobacco production induces useless damages to the agriculture of the European Countries that are producers of tobacco. We believe that production is only one of the aspects that should be taken into account and that should include for instance the import of tobacco from outside Europe, the production of cigarettes, rules on commercialisation of tobacco products, taxation, and so on. That's why in a previous letter addressed to Commissioner for Health and Consumer Production, David Byrne, we recommended him to consider to delay action against the production and to foster a wider discussion on the entire matter in the next Council.

So I ask you to support us in this point. I hope that you will consider my request and I will appreciate if you could give me an answer.

Thanking you in advance for your attention and help, I remain, with kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Girolamo Sirchia, MD, FRCP Edin

**Dr. Jef Tavernier**

*Ministre de la protection de la Consommation,  
de la Santé publique et de l'Environnement*

*Avenue des Arts, 7  
1210 Bruxelles (Belgio)*

c.c.

- the Honorable *Giovanni Alemanno*  
Minister for Agricultural Policies

- *Dr. David Byrne*  
EU Commissioner for Health  
and Consumer Protection