

## The ban of smoking in public places

This is an actual affair that is especially "hot" in Ireland or New York City. It is going to be discussed in other states also. It concerns our health and our freedom. Why is it important to say "NO" to this restriction?

However this ban, if it is implemented, causes some positive effects, the negatives are more important. So, let's have a look at those positives.

Doctors and scientists know very well that the cancer of lungs, dirty teeth, yellow skin on fingers and other uncomfortable things are caused by smoking cigarettes. Smoking is dangerous not only for smokers, but also for people who stay near them. We call this passive smoking.

At present, cigarettes are more and more expensive (in Czech republic, for example, this increase is caused by higher taxes). So, why waste money? And finally, does smoking seem to be nice, esthetic? Many people say that there is not enough free space for cigarettes (it is a drug) in the 3<sup>th</sup> millenium of our growing civilisation (it means smoking is dead, behind the times and outmoded).

Yes, these arguments are certainly important and true. But don't think these arguments are the only ones. There are other voices, including me, who declare that „my health = my problem“. I also think that I am able to manage my budget well enough, I don't need any advises about it. On the contrary, doesn't the cigarette industry help the economic situation of a country? Yes, it does. What is the most confusing thing for me, it is the strictness of that ban. Why don't they forbid smoking only some places?

The ban of smoking in public places has many opponents. I rank among them and I offer many valuable ideas why to throw the ban away.

I think there are so many people in every state, that it is almost unreal to say: „All of you, you mustn't smoke here next month.“ Remember smoking has some positive features: it makes you calm and concentrated and other ones. And cigarettes are drugs! So, I hardly disbelieve people would respect such ban. People, don't hold recent „No smoking“ rules. I even „see“ (let me predict the future) many demonstrations of discontent people in squares in future after admitting the „Ban of smoking in public palces“.

It isn't only me who complains about the power of EU officers. Is that true that EU ministers (who have not got mandete from Czech, German, French...people) can break tradition and habits of a nation?! I hope they can't, but...they really can! It concerns every nation in Europe. Introducing this ban in EU would raise nationalistic ideas of some states. They would shout very loudly: „I will smoke wherever I want! I don't respect these stupid laws from the EU!“

And finally, the most important thing: The ban of smoking in public places hardly attacks the freedom of man. It is brutal encroachment of (to?) basic human freedom. An implementation of this ban would mean a step back in growing of the human civilisation.

I am against „ban of smoking in public places“. Far and away the best solution of this problem, it is to let take effect the „power or hand of liberty (free) market“ (by famous economist Adam Smith) in co-operation with „selectvive bans of smoking“ (only somewhere).

Radek Fiser, 7B (14/11/003)