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ERJ European Respiratory Journal Eur Respir J 0903-1936/1399-3003 European Respiratory Society 10.1183/13993003.00721-2020 ERJ-00721-2020 AGORA CORRESPONDENCE

Minimising the environmental impact of inhaled therapies CORRESPONDENCE CORRESPONDENCE Minimising the environmental impact of inhaled therapies

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To the Editor:

We read with interest the recent editorial by KEELEY *et al.* [1] on the timely topic of changing pressurised metered dose inhalers (pMDIs) to dry powder inhalers (DPIs) due to the much higher carbon footprint of pMDIs [2]. We agree with the authors that global warming cannot be tackled only by focusing on inhaler devices, but as long as we can provide safe and effective treatment to our patients, we cannot overlook environmental facts either. We feel that KEELEY *et al.* [1] gave an unjustified negative impression on the performance of DPIs. They imply that DPIs are more expensive than pMDIs, that switching from pMDI to DPI leads to poorer asthma control, and that patients using DPIs should have a pMDI+spacer rescue pack since DPIs cannot be relied on as rescue medication. However, we feel that these misleading claims are based on wrong interpretations of the publications they cite, or on opinions without any supporting data. Since in many countries, like in Finland and Sweden, good control of asthma and COPD is achieved at a national level [3, 4] while the majority of patients using inhaled therapies are treated with DPIs, (56% in Finland and 71% in Sweden, according to IQVIA standard units volume data for 2019), we think it is worth correcting these wrong impressions.