



Wednesday, 15th January 2014



The European Commission and the Council of the EU are trying to force Parliament into accepting a Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) that will remove all effective electronic cigarette products from the market.



The draft directive is absurd in that it will turn thousands of people back to tobacco, causing the premature death of half of them. The European Commission has published the evidential basis for their draft and it is frightening. It reveals a distortion of scientific research that is so gross that one wonders whether it is duplicitous. In fact, scientific research clearly indicates that the electronic cigarette is the most formidable weapon ever devised to reduce harm to public health. All recent evidence shows that it should be welcomed and encouraged as a unique opportunity potentially to rid the world of tobacco.



We, the vapers of Europe* and our associations, therefore call on MEPs to remove from the TPD any reference that treats electronic cigarettes as tobacco products. MEPs should request that Article 18 of the Directive be amended to initiate, in consultation with all interested parties including users, an objective process based on hard evidence, which within 24 months would lead to proposals for sector-specific regulation within the General Product Safety Directive.



Our national organisations will explain in detail to our local public opinion the inconsistencies, incoherencies and contradictions contained in a TPD that deliberately flouts good decision-making process.



Is it too much to ask, to have properly thought out policy based on hard evidence?



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