

European Free Vaping Initiative



Our manifesto

We, the vapers of Europe and supporters of the subject, demand electronic cigarettes and its related products, regardless of its nicotine content, to be classified as general purpose recreational products through legislation, once and for all, and strictly not as medicinal, tobacco or any other kind of products that would limit or impair the vapers' access to and use of electronic cigarettes and related products.

The potential outcome of the classification of electronic cigarettes and related products other than general purpose recreational products would effectively lock electronic cigarette related small businesses out of the market by handing the future of vaping into the hands of an industrial group that is not just simply not interested in sustaining the current quality levels and wide range of selection, but it is counter-interested in serving the needs of users of vaping devices.

Vapers made an adult, responsible and private decision when they chose this young but very effective alternative that made possible for them to leave or ease up a deadly habit that claims hundreds of thousands of lives of EU citizens each and every year. The fact that vaping poses no harm to the vicinity of the vaper makes this hobby a private matter of no public interest, therefore any kind of attempt towards the regulation of electronic cigarettes and related products is interpreted as serious offense against our private sphere and personal rights. The matter of electronic cigarettes is intriguing solely for vapers, their close environment, manufacturers and vendors, no other parties should be concerned, in which scope the recent attempts for regulation and the whole overly serious approach towards electronic cigarettes make no sense at all.

The vast majority of vapers keep vaping as a hobby after successfully stopped smoking. We would love to make it very clear: it is not a smoking cessation device, it is a device for recreational purposes that makes it utterly easy to stop smoking and stop seriously harming yourself and your environment while you do it, effectively ending up with a harmless and fun activity.

Anyone who actually knows these devices, their effectiveness and its positive impact on quality of life, vapers have been experiencing for years, cannot find a reason born in good faith that justifies a classification as a medicinal or tobacco product. Especially so since other products with well known and proven harmful effects are kept being freely available to the public.

We do understand however, that in the long run it imposes a serious threat on government treasury incomes and profits of industrial groups intertwined with public health. We understand it and we could not care less. What we care for is our free will, the freedom of choice, and the real protection of the health of ourselves and others in our environment.

Therefore we ask the honored members of the European Commission to form their opinion considering all of the above, with regards to the classifying of electronic cigarettes and related products, and to propose legislation accordingly, to lay down the foundations of free and unrestricted vaping for Europe, by supporting the following conditions:

- allow all existing vapers of Europe to keep on vaping - the same way vapers living in member states where vaping is unregulated do - without legislating any significant negative impact on the availability and diversity of vaping products;
- allow all future European vapers to experience the same rich culture of vaping that we now enjoy in member states where vaping is unregulated;
- allow affected manufacturers and vendors to stay in business, without being either crippled or burdened with unnecessary time and money consuming licensing procedures in conjunction with to electronic cigarettes and related products.

Legal basis

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 2 - “Everyone has the right to life.”

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 3 - “Everyone has the right to respect for his or her physical ... integrity.”

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 7 - “Everyone has the right to respect for his or her private ... life.”

TFEU 67 - “The Union shall constitute an area of freedom, security and justice with respect for fundamental rights ...”

TFEU 191 - “Union policy on the environment shall contribute to pursuit ... protecting human health”, “In preparing its policy ... the Union shall take account of ... the potential benefits and costs of action or lack of action”

TFEU 168 - “Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing physical and mental illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health. Such action shall cover the fight against the major health scourges ...”

TFEU 173 - “The Union and the Member States shall ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union’s industry exist. For that purpose, in accordance with a system of open and competitive markets, their action shall be aimed at: ... encouraging an environment favourable to initiative and to the development of undertakings throughout the Union, particularly small and medium-sized undertakings ... fostering better exploitation of the industrial potential of policies of innovation, research and technological development”

TFEU 179 - “The Union shall have the objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases by achieving a European research area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely, and encouraging it to become more competitive, including in its industry...”