

**Question for written answer E-003366/2025**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

**Kim Van Sparrentak (Verts/ALE), Mohammed Chahim (S&D)**

**Subject:** Prohibited predatory marketing of illicit vapes to children on Snapchat and severe medical harm to children caused by vapes

According to reports, there are many illegal vape advertisements on Snapchat driving children into the arms of predatory, non-licensed vape dealers on a large scale<sup>1</sup>. Dutch doctors have raised this pressing issue. At the same time, an increasing number of children are in hospital with severe medical problems caused by vaping, such as lung punctures, brain damage or heavy metals in their bodies<sup>2</sup>.

1. Is the Commission investigating Snapchat for spreading illegal content, which is a violation of the Digital Services Act (DSA)<sup>3</sup>, including the provisions on notice and action<sup>4</sup> and on systemic risks to health and safety and protection of minors<sup>5</sup>?
2. Will the Commission consider EU-wide action to ensure that vapes become less attractive to children, less poisonous and less dangerous, such as by banning flavoured vapes, introducing neutral packaging and increasing safety standards, for instance by introducing a ban on poisonous heavy metals from vapes in the anticipated review of the Tobacco Products Directive<sup>6</sup>?
3. Is the Commission considering an EU-wide ban on single-use disposable vapes, given their devastating environment impact and potential violation of the EU rules on waste from electrical and electronic equipment, following the examples of Belgium, France and Spain and recent discussions in the Netherlands?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nos.nl/artikel/2580070-nog-steeds-veel-vape-dealers-op-snapchat-artsen-stappen-naar-toezichthouder>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://nos.nl/artikel/2547904-veertien-kinderen-na-vapen-in-ziekenhuis-klaplong-en-longbloeding>; <https://nos.nl/artikel/2518967-nieuw-onderzoek-vapen-schade-aan-hersenen-en-organen-door-giftige-metalen>.

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act) (OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>).

<sup>4</sup> Article 16 DSA.

<sup>5</sup> Article 35 DSA.

<sup>6</sup> Directive 2014/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products and repealing Directive 2001/37/EC (OJ L 127, 29.4.2014, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/40/oj>).