

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000076/25
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(10 January 2025)**

Subject: E-cigarettes and the need for a uniform European framework

The spread of e-cigarettes, which are often presented as less harmful than smoking, raises serious health concerns, especially in relation to young people. There are studies showing that the use of e-cigarettes may cause equally significant health problems.

Given that prevention and information policies vary considerably among Member States:

1. What is the Commission's view on the use of e-cigarettes and the dangers they pose to public health?
2. Does the Commission intend to take action to establish a uniform European framework to regulate the use of e-cigarettes and vapes, taking account of their impact on health?
3. What measures does it intend to take to protect young people from access to e-cigarettes, and to increase their awareness of the risks associated with using them?

Submitted: 10.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(11 March 2025)**

1. There are no safe levels of tobacco or nicotine consumption, including from smoke-free nicotine products. The Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks underlined the negative health effects associated with e-cigarettes ⁽¹⁾.
2. These challenges are being carefully considered as part of the ongoing comprehensive evaluation of the EU legislative framework on tobacco control ⁽²⁾. Future steps will depend on its findings.
3. The Council recently adopted the Council Recommendation on smoke- and aerosol-free environments ⁽³⁾. It aims to better protect people in the EU, especially children and more vulnerable people, from exposure to second-hand smoke and aerosols, in both indoor and certain outdoor spaces. The Commission is supporting Member States to implement the recommendation through funding from the EU4Health programme ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission is also developing a prevention toolkit ⁽⁵⁾ focused on various aspects of children's health such as protecting children from the promotion of harmful products including tobacco and nicotine, while promoting good mental health.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/scientific_committees/scheer/docs/scheer_o_017.pdf

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13481-Evaluation-of-the-legislative-framework-for-tobacco-control_en

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/news/commission-proposes-extend-coverage-smoke-free-environments-2024-09-17_en#:~:text=The%20revision%20calls%20on%20EU%20countries%20to%20extend%20the%20coverage

⁽⁴⁾ https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/eu4health/about_en

⁽⁵⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/items/863796/en>