Dear Commissioner Várhelyi,

In December the European Commission is expected to present its legislative revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD). Since its adoption in 2014, the tobacco industry has changed rapidly, introducing a growing range of nicotine products, while the TPD legislation has remained largely unchanged. **We welcome this revision as an opportunity to close these regulatory gaps.**

The scale of the problem is clear. EU sales of nicotine pouches surged from 60.8 million in 2019 to 1.09 billion in 2023, while the EU vape market grew by 450% between 2012 and 2023. Young people who use nicotine products, such as vapes, are four times more likely to take up tobacco smoking. The rapid growth of these products therefore poses a serious threat to public health and undermines the EU's ambition, set out in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, to achieve a tobacco-free generation by 2040.

In its May 2026 report on novel nicotine products, the WHO warned about the aggressive marketing of nicotine pouches to young people and called for urgent action on flavours and stronger regulation.

The environmental impact is equally concerning. In Latvia alone, 15 million vapes were discarded in 2023, with only 5% collected. Over 4.5 trillion cigarette filters enter the environment each year, polluting soils and groundwater and costing European municipalities millions in waste management. This is incompatible with our ambitions for a circular economy. Contrary to marketing claims by the tobacco industry, cigarette filters do not offer any health protection from cigarette smoke and could even encourage deeper inhalation, as WHO has concluded.

We therefore urge you to address these challenges in the upcoming revision by taking the following measures:

- **Freeze the introduction of new novel nicotine products** until an adequate regulatory framework is in place, preventing industry innovation from outpacing legislation.
- **Ban cigarette filters**, which offer no meaningful health benefits while contributing to the pollution of our cities, waterways and beaches.
- **Ban flavours in tobacco and nicotine products**, including vapes, and prohibit colourful packaging and product designs that appeal to children and young people.
- **Prohibit disposable vapes** and ensure rechargeable alternatives meet strict environmental requirements, reducing battery waste and supporting our circular economy objectives.

The revision of the TPD is an essential opportunity to protect future generations from nicotine addiction and address the serious health and environmental consequences of these

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products. We urge you to ensure that the interests of public health take precedence over those of the tobacco industry.

Best regards,

MEP Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy

MEP Aodhán Ó Ríordáin

MEP Marjan Šarec

MEP Per Clausen

MEP Irena Joveva

MEP Christophe Clergeau

MEP Jutta Paulus

MEP Thomas Pellerin-Carlin

MEP Anja Hazekamp

MEP Stine Bosse

MEP Merja Kyllönen

MEP Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis

MEP César Luena

MEP Tilly Metz

MEP Ilaria Sali

MEP Daniel Freund

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