

EU parliament supports smokers trying to quit by approving e-cigarettes

By ACSH Staff — October 9, 2013



^[1]What a surprise! After long months of anxiety bordering on panic

among devotees of public health regarding the EU's upcoming deliberations on how to deal with the burgeoning e-cigarette market, [the lawmakers in Strasbourg](#) ^[2] voted **not** to ban, or even seriously restrict, the quit-smoking devices. As was completely appropriate given that the propaganda spewing from the public health nonprofits and most government agencies warning smokers about the hypothetical risks of e-cigs was based on no evidence of harm, while the massive damage from cigarettes is well-documented.

Now the controversy passes over the Atlantic to our shores: the FDA, as manifest through the head of its Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), Mitch Zeller, has indicated the agency will issue its proposed ruling on the nature of e-cigarette regulation this month.

ACSH's Dr. Gilbert Ross had this perspective: Public health is all the better today, for ex-smokers who managed to quit by switching to e-cigarettes, as well as for the many millions who will switch in the future, thanks to the EU's sound science-based, yet courageous vote. Now we must hope that the FDA has heard this message, and we should encourage Zeller's CTP to evaluate the likely benefits vs. the hypothetical risks of this device when rendering a decision, perhaps this month. But today, the millions of smokers who are desperately seeking a better option to help them quit can rest a bit easier.

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