



BfTG's Response to the Dutch Public Consultation on the Draft Bill to Reduce Points of Sale for Tobacco Products and Related Products

The German e-cigarette association **BfTG** wishes to contribute to the Dutch government's public consultation on its Draft Bill regarding the reduction of points of sale for tobacco and related products.

We express significant concern over the Bill's provision to restrict the sale of vaping products to specialised tobacco stores by 2026. This measure threatens to severely impact the beneficial and cooperative business relationships between our members and the Dutch e-cigarette industry, a sector already grappling with stringent regulations. Restricting sales channels jeopardizes the legal trade of vaping products, undermining both businesses and public health.

BfTG's Key Concerns:

1. **Impact on Public Health:** Limiting access to vaping products will curtail the availability of proven harm-reduction tools for smokers seeking to quit. Scientific evidence shows that vaping is a significantly safer alternative to smoking. For example, Public Health England reports that vaping is 95% less harmful than smoking combustible cigarettes. Reducing points of sale contradicts public health goals and risks an increase in smoking rates, a setback for harm-reduction efforts.
2. **Economic Threats to the Vaping Industry:** The draft bill disproportionately harms the legitimate vaping industry in the Netherlands, which faces the strictest regulations in Europe, such as flavor bans and online sales prohibitions. Further restrictions will erode market access for compliant products, leaving room for unsafe, unregulated black-market alternatives to flourish.
3. **Unfair Advantages for the Tobacco Industry:** The decision to exempt traditional tobacco products from the same restrictions until 2032 is inequitable and unfounded. This preferential treatment benefits the tobacco industry while placing unfair burdens on vaping companies, which offer less harmful products. This inconsistency undermines trust in regulatory policies and public health priorities.

Call to Action:

We urge the Dutch government to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards policies that balance public health objectives with the economic sustainability of the vaping industry. BfTG and its members remain committed to collaborating with stakeholders to ensure a practical and health-conscious regulatory framework.

Conclusion:

Restricting the points of sale for vaping products will harm both public health and legitimate businesses. It will increase smoking rates, expand the black market, and unfairly disadvantage the vaping industry. We respectfully call on the Dutch authorities to adopt a more balanced approach that supports harm reduction and fosters constructive international trade relationships, including those between Germany and the Netherlands.

About BfTG:

The **Bündnis für Tabakfreien Genuss** (BfTG) represents small and medium-sized enterprises in the e-cigarette sector. Our members are committed to providing safer alternatives to smoking, fostering innovation, and advancing public health through reduced-risk products.