

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release October 26th, 2016

INNCO global members support UKCTAS in their critique of the WHO FCTC policy on e-cigarettes.

Today, the International Network of Nicotine Consumer Organisations (INNCO) added its support to a critical report released this morning by leading academics attached to the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies (UKCTAS), in response to the WHO's FCTC latest report on e-cigarettes (or ENDS as the WHO inexplicably insist on calling them).

The report by the WHO forms the basis for discussions at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties (COP7) in Delhi 7-12 November on the global Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The FCTC's 180 signatories will decide on future global policy relating to cigarettes and other combustible tobacco products, smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes.

The last EU meeting to finalise the collective 28-member EU position on e-cigarettes took place earlier this week in Brussels.

Atakan Befrits, INNCO's press officer said "Reports suggest the EU statement will not contain any positive statements on the risk reduction e-cigarettes offer for smokers, despite recent evidence reviews by Public Health England and the Royal College of Physicians that showed enormous benefits for those who switch"..

INNCO called upon all EU Ministers of Health to give immediate attention to the issues raised in the UKCTAS critique of the WHO report, stating - It is important that the EU collective response to e-cigarettes reflects the positive health benefits conferred on smokers who switch to safer nicotine products and these benefits, as well as potential risks, are assessed objectively.

Judy Gibson, the Steering Group Coordinator of INNCO said "The WHO's current policy on e-cigarettes is more likely to endanger public health instead of improving it. Once again the WHO remains resolute in refusing to acknowledge scientific evidence and opinions from the world's leading experts in tobacco addiction. This needs to change - now."

ENDS

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Notes for editors:

Background on INNCO: Formed in June 2016, INNCO is the collective voice for the most influential nicotine consumer organisations operating in 15 countries around the world: organisations which each recognise that there are safer ways to enjoy nicotine consumption than smoking cigarettes. Further information can be obtained from the website www.innco.org

Note: INNCO operates in full compliance with Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

- The report 'Commentary on WHO report on electronic nicotine delivery systems and electronic non-delivery systems can be found here:

<http://ukctas.net/news/commentary-on-WHO-report-on-ENDS&ENND.html>

- The original WHO report to inform the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was published online in August 2016 and can be found here:

[http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/cop7/FCTC COP 7 11 EN.pdf](http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/cop7/FCTC_COP_7_11_EN.pdf)

- The Royal College of Physician's Report, 'Nicotine without Smoke' was published in April 2016 and can be found here:

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/nicotine-without-smoke-tobacco-harm-reduction-0>

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