

IVVA Contribution to TRIS notifications 2022/490/E

About IVVA

The Irish Vape Vendors Association (IVVA) is an association that represents retailers of vaping products in Ireland who all share common goals.

We advocate for evidence-based policy on these reduced risk products and represent the interests of independent e-retail and retail companies.

Members of IVVA are not owned, nor are under the control of either Big Tobacco or Pharmaceutical companies.

Context

IVVA would like to take the opportunity to relay our concerns over the Anteproyecto de Ley del Mercado de Tabacos y Productos Relacionados which was notified by Spain to the commission on 14/7/22.

The draft bill that has been launched by the Spanish Government, proposes to effectively demolish the independent vaping industry in Spain, and hand it over to big tobacco.

This proposed bill will ban and close all vape store throughout Spain, prohibit all online sales, and transfer all sales of e-cigarettes and e-liquid to tobacco stores. This clearly goes against the principles of EU law including free competition and freedom of movement of goods in the internal market. Along with this, the proposed bill will lead to large levels of unemployment during a time of huge economic uncertainty and will have a devastating effect on the stop smoking effort in Spain.

Lastly, we recognised that the proposed bill would go against the differentiation between combustible tobacco products and non-combustible products which was established in the Tobacco Products directive 2014/40/EU.

Conclusion

IVVA would like to ask the commission to look at the compatibility of the proposed bill with EU law and repeal the obligation to sell vaping products exclusively in state owned tobacco stores