

Resolution on the Regulation of Snus and Nicotine Pouches in the European Union

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Brno (24/11/2023)

Recognizing the intended update of tobacco regulations within the European Union and the conscientious efforts by the European Commission to safeguard public health, the council acknowledges the preliminary findings from the study conducted by Open Evidence. These findings suggest a potential extension of the existing ban on snus to include nicotine pouches, echoing the expressed concerns from Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides regarding the growing popularity of nicotine pouches and their implications on public health.

The council further recognizes the distinct position held by snus in Sweden, where it stands as a predominant tobacco product with well-documented health effects acknowledged to be among the least harmful compared to other tobacco products. Acknowledging the substantial disparities in health risks associated with tobacco use in Sweden, characterized by lower instances of tobacco-related diseases and diminished smoking-related mortality, particularly among men.

It is important to recognize that while snus contains tobacco with a documented track record, nicotine pouches, being tobacco-free, represent a distinct category requiring careful consideration in regulatory frameworks due to their unique characteristics and potential public health implications.

Acknowledging:

1. The unique status of snus in Sweden, being a dominant tobacco product with documented health effects that are considered to be among the least harmful.
2. The significantly lower health risks associated with tobacco use in Sweden compared to other European countries, especially in terms of tobacco-related diseases and smoking-related mortality.
3. The positive impact of snus on reducing the intensity of smoking, plans to quit smoking, and future smoking among dual users of snus and cigarettes, as indicated by research studies.
4. The potential for improving public health through information initiatives on the harm reduction effects of snus, particularly in countries where snus is allowed.

YEPP calls for:

1. The European Commission to reconsider its approach to regulating snus and not extend the ban on snus to nicotine pouches, taking into account the well-documented lower health risks associated with snus use.
2. The legalization of snus in all European countries, recognizing its positive impact on reducing smoking-related harm.
3. Thorough consideration and evaluation of any regulations on nicotine pouches, ensuring a balanced perspective that takes into account harm reduction and the potential positive impact on smoking cessation, especially among the youth.

4. Implementation of information initiatives on the harm reduction effects of snus in countries where snus is allowed, in alignment with research findings supporting its potential to improve public health.

References:

1. [Europe's war against tobacco has a new target: Nicotine – POLITICO](#)
2. [EU överväger totalförbud mot vitt snus](#)
3. [Snus and health - Snusforumet](#)