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Dear Member of the European Parliament,

I am writing to you about one of the EU's least fashionable causes, but also one of its most philosophically challenging.

The smokers' campaign Forest EU believes that adults who are aware of the serious health risks associated with smoking should be allowed to use a legal product without disproportionate regulation.

In this context, Forest has just published its **Smoking in Society Index** about the state of smoking and vaping bans in the 28 Member States. The principal conclusions were as follows:

1. *Increasing restrictions on smoking and vaping are a worrying and unnecessary attack on individual freedom*

Europe is now dotted with open air smoking bans, bans inside one's home and the extension of smoking bans to include vaping, thus gold plating the 2009 EU Recommendation on smoke-free environments.

2. *Extreme bans undermine social inclusiveness without benefiting public health*

There is no evidence that banning smoking and vaping in the open air benefits the health of non-smokers. Instead such policies discriminate against smokers and vapers, potentially excluding them from normal society.

3. *It is possible to protect non-smokers without marginalising smokers and vapers*

Best practices drawn from nine EU countries show it is possible and popular to have sensible policies protecting the health of non-smokers without marginalising smokers and vapers.

You will find more details in the report enclosed. I very much hope you will get in touch if you need our views on any relevant policy development affecting smokers.

Yours sincerely,

Guillaume Périgois
Forest EU
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